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FBIS-SOV-93-059 *30 March 1993*

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Defense Ministers Attend NATO Meeting in Brussels

Morozov Disagrees With U.S. Disarmament Plan

OW3003111193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The West takes heed of what Ukraine has to say only as long as there are nuclear weapons on its soil, Konstyantyn Morozov, Ukraine's Defense Minister told a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels where their East European counterparts were invited.

In explaining Kiev's views on essential issues in dealing with nuclear weapons Morozov emphasized that his country has been relentlessly working for the status of a nonnuclear state but he made it clear that those who feel that only nuclear states are taken seriously have good reasons to think so.

In the minister's opinion, the U.S., Russia, and the UN Security Council must make unambiguous statements declaring their respect for Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity.

He expressed his concern that the non-interference policy of NATO member states vis-a-vis Ukraine has been pursued for too long. He also reproached NATO for keeping his country in the dark on the expenses of eliminating the missiles by the deadline which the U.S. offers so as to secure ratification of START-1 and START-2 by Kiev.

The minister disagreed with the U.S. aid to Ukraine for elimination of nuclear weapons being appropriated as part of Washington's aid to Russia. This aid must be clearly earmarked and cover all the expenses, Morozov emphasized.

Russian Minister Attends Meeting

LD2903093393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0845 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels March 29 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev is attending a meeting of defence ministers of member countries of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council which opened today at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Its participants will review progress since their last meeting a year ago on setting up partnership relations and developing a dialogue and military cooperation between NATO, eastern Europe and former Soviet Republics.

They will exchange opinions on guaranteeing security and will review the prospects for participation by countries of the council in peacemaking activities, especially providing assistance in peace-keeping operations undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations and the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Grachev Says Withdrawal From Baltics Suspended

OW2903185793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1847 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is suspending the pull out of its troops from the Baltic states, Pavel Grachev, Russia's Defense Minister, told a session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) in Brussels Monday [29 March]. He explained this by saying that "Russia did not succeed in signing accords with the Baltic countries on the sequence, conditions, and schedule of the withdrawal or on social security for the servicemen."

Following his speech Hain Rebas, Estonian Defense Minister, and Audrius Butkevicius, his Lithuanian counterpart, made a joint statement that this decision was in conflict with international law and Russia's earlier commitments.

Defense minsters of the U.S., Britain, Norway, Iceland, and Canada also responded sharply to Grachev's statement. They said that they understood the difficulties Russia encounters in the pull out but these difficulties do not justify the suspension.

By some accounts, there are a total of about 35,000 Russian troops in the Baltic countries.

Official Explains Grachev Statement

OW3003142693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Reports prepared by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There is nothing unexpected" [as receiving] in the statement concerning Russian troops withdrawal from the Baltic countries, made by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in Brussels, said Aleksandr Udaltsov, deputy chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's 2nd European department, in an interview with Interfax's correspondent on Tuesday [30 March].

Addressing NATO's Cooperation Council on Monday, the defense minister said that the withdrawal of Russian troops had been suspended.

In comments on the excited reaction of Lithuania and other Baltic states to Grachev's statement, Interfax's interviewee said: "I'd like to remind you that on October 29 last year President Boris Yeltsin signed a directive to suspend the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic countries till the signing of corresponding agreements. This

relates primarily to the principal agreement on troops withdrawal, plus agreements on social guarantees for the servicemen, their family members and military retirees."

"Unfortunately, none of the three republics (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - IF [INTERFAX]) has signed such agreements," Udaltsov noted.

According to him, the stormy reaction of the Baltic countries to the defense minister's statement can be explained in the following way: "Evidently they hoped that President Yeltsin's directive will not be complied with consistently enough, and they'll manage to procrastinate the process of signing agreements. For our part, we made it clear enough that this kind of situation cannot last forever, and that such agreements have to be signed."

As the high-ranking diplomat said, the importance of signing agreements promptly has been demonstrated once again. With the signing of agreements the schedule signed with Lithuania will not be disrupted, and the times for withdrawing troops from Latvia and Estonia will be fixed sooner," he said.

When asked by Interfax what hinders the endeavors to sign agreements on troops withdrawal as soon as possible, Udaltsov said: "As for Lithuania, our talks on the level of governmental delegations with it were suspended five months ago. As you know, the election marathon in Lithuania proved to be too long. At first they were electing the parliament, later the government, then the president, and now the government again. President Algirdas Brazauskas approved the new members of Lithuania's governmental delegation only last Friday. We believe that in the next few days we'll renew negotiations with the Lithuanians and deal with the wordings of these agreements. If we manage to thrash them out and sign the agreements, there will be no problems in implementing the schedule, which, as a matter of fact, has been observed on the whole. But as regards Latvia and Estonia, the process of drafting agreements proceeds with difficulties there. For instance, at the latest round of talks with Estonia our partners unexpectedly put on the table an actually new version of the draft agreement on troops withdrawal, which had been coordinated by almost 90%."

Butkevicius Visits NATO Headquarters

LD2603154493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius was received at the NATO headquarters in Brussels yesterday by NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner. The defense minister informed the NATO secretary general about the process of withdrawing the Russian Army from Lithuania. They exchanged views on the political situation in Russia and cooperation between the Republic of Lithuania and NATO.

Today the defense minister also met with Ambassador von Moltke, NATO assistant secretary for political affairs, and with Michael Legge, assistant secretary for defense, politics, and planning.

Today Minister Audrius Butkevicius goes to Stuttgart to meet with General Charles Boyd, deputy commander of US Armed Forces in Europe.

Offers of Help With Weapons Dismantling Welcomed

PM2903141093 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 93 p 2

[Mikhail Pogorelyy article: "Difficulties Still To Come"]

[Text] In the two months since the signing of the Convention on Chemical Weapons in Paris, 10 more states have acceded to this agreement. So the number of countries that have embarked on the path of renouncing the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons has reached 140. But only two states have yet ratified the convention—Fiji and Mauritius. The document stipulates that it will come into force 180 days after its ratification by at least 65 participants, but not later than two years after it was signed.

So after 13 January 1995 one more problem will be added to all our others—the need to destroy chemical weapon stockpiles. For Russia, this will be a particularly difficult task. Fulfilling our commitments under the convention will require not only the formal consideration of a new factor in international politics, but also very substantial financial expenditure.

In Russia, as President Yeltsin expressively put it the other day, several times more chemical weapons have been stockpiled than could possibly be needed by all the countries in the world. And unlike the United States we have no readymade infrastructure for the destruction of the lethal stockpiles. Creating one would take, according to various estimates, several billion (!) dollars. Obviously that is a burden beyond Russia's powers. And we cannot cope with it single-handed. Therefore what is now particularly interesting and relevant is the experience of France, the FRG, Italy, and other countries, which have decided, on their own initiative, to help us in the cause of eliminating weapons of mass destruction. International assistance would help, on the one hand, to make not only Russia but the entire world safer, and on the other, to lift part of the financial and economic burden from the shoulders of our state and ultimately the Russian people.

Belarusian Military Experts Inspect NATO Units

WS3003113293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The Belarusian military has entered a European scale event into the history of the young Belarusian Armed Forces. On 29 March, for the first time, a military delegation of the Belarusian National Center for Control

and Inspections arrived in France. Under the provisions of the European Conventional Weapons Treaty, the delegation will scrupulously inspect the staff and authorized weapons of NATO units chosen for inspection by the Belarusian Ministry of Defense. For the first time, a Belarusian military plane with officers on board landed at a NATO airfield, which up until now has been closed for CIS controllers.

Correspondent Reports on Nuclear Smuggling

LD2903193093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Video report by correspondent Vladimir Kondratyev from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Despite the reassuring statements by those responsible in the CIS that a leak of nuclear material overseas is practically impossible, the Federal Republic of Germany is already speaking openly about the appearance of a new so-called nuclear mafia from the East.

One of the latest arrests of people trading in uranium and plutonium, useful for making nuclear weapons, took place in a car park. The authorities are so far not making the exact location and the full names of those arrested when a Polish citizen handed over highly dangerous contraband to a known female German citizen. The dosimeter went right off the clock when the contraband was confiscated.

According to federal criminal department information, more than 100 attempts to buy radioactive material in the FRG were uncovered in the past year alone. It is assumed that this is just the tip of the iceberg, because the police are not omnipotent.

Specialists have been shocked by the carelessness with which this cargo is being transported and stored. They can contaminate the water table, and cause fear and panic for whole towns, says Zachert, president of the department.

Fifteen kilos of caesium, which explodes on contact with air, have just been found on former Eastern Bloc smugglers on the Swiss-German border. It was being kept in two milk churns.

It will probably not be possible to fight against the new business. As the chief of the department said in Wiesbaden, up to $3,000 has been asked for a few grams of fissile material, so the risk is worth it. The criminal agency now needs at least 500 extra employees to resist the nuclear mafia. But thus far, there have not been that many volunteers for this sort of work.

Minsk Seminar on International Trade Relations Opens

LD2403203793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2013 GMT 24 Mar 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Mikhail Zhuravovich for TASS]

[Text] Minsk March 24 TASS—The absence of alternate markets beyond the former Soviet Union has worsened the trade situation in all republics of the new Commonwealth. After the winding up of activities of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) the new sovereign states lost their previous leading positions in countries members of this organization. Their share in the overall export and import fell to 22 per cent.

This and other facts were cited at the seminar on trade issues of CIS member countries which opened in Minsk today. This seminar is being held by the Organizition for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) jointly with the State Foreign Economic Relations Committee of Belarus.

Representatives of almost all newly independent states of the former Soviet Union and business circles of East Europe and the U.S.A. are taking part in the seminar.

During two days they will consider problems of functioning of regional economic cooperation systems, trade agreements between CIS member and third countries and will work out new mutually beneficial trade regulations.

Military Council Says Black Sea Fleet Outside Politics

LD2603150593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1329 GMT 26 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar—"The position of the Military Council remains firm and invariable: the Black Sea Fleet is outside politics. The personnel are acting and will act in strict accordance with the decisions of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine." This is stressed in an appeal to the Black Sea sailors adopted today at a sitting of the Black Sea Fleet's Military Council.

Black Sea Navy To Remain Neutral on Sevastopol Situation

LD2603161393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 26 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS—"The Military Council of the Black Sea navy today discussed the socio-political situation in Sevastopol," ITAR-TASS was told at the press centre of the Black Sea Fleet. Addressing the council, Vice-Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander-in-chief of the Black Sea navy, noted that political tension was increasing in Sevastopol. This was provoked by the decision of leaders of individual parties and movements to hold simultaneously two congresses on March 28—of Ukrainians, on the one hand, and Russians, on the other.

Baltin read out the text of the Russian Defence Ministry Collegium's address to men of the Russian armed forces, stressing the impermissibility of drawing the Army and navy into political confrontations. He ordered the command points of all units and closed garrisons to be guarded more close and to prevent emissaries of various parties and movements from infiltrating them.

Officials of the Black Sea navy press centre said that the navy's Military Council fully shared the view, expressed by the supreme commanders-in-chief of Russia and Ukraine, that the participation of servicemen in political actions was absolutely impermissible.

The meeting adopted an appeal to Black Sea navymen, noting that the "stand of the Military Council remained firm and irreversible—the Black Sea navy will remain outside politics. The servicemen are behaving, and will go on behaving, in strict compliance with decisions adopted by the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine."

Shaposhnikov, UN Mission Head Discuss Tajik Situation

LD3003133293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1232 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Ways to further stabilise the situation in Tajikistan were discussed here on Monday evening by Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and head of the U.N. Mission in Tajikistan Liviu Botha, ITAR-TASS was told today at the public relations centre of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Supreme Command.

Both sides stressed the need for constructive talks to consolidate all the forces interested in stabilising the situation and stopping the confrontation between various groupings. They stressed the importance of the efforts currently exerted by the Tajik leadership to set up balanced state structures in the republic with proper account of the interests of all its regions. The meeting at the CIS Joint Armed Forces Supreme Command has shown that both sides favour the use of CIS military inspection teams and peace-keeping forces, as well as the holding of a conference on national reconciliation in Tajikistan with the participation of representatives from the CIS countries, the United Nations and the CSCE.

Kyrgyzstan To Remove Battalion From Tajikistan

LD3003125293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan has decided to remove its battalion, which is a part of the CIS peacekeeping forces, from neighboring Tajikistan. Observers believe the Kyrgyz leadership is taking this step to avoid confrontation at the forthcoming parliamentary session due to open on 12 April. Earlier the deputies repeatedly opposed the participation of the Kyrgyz peacekeeping battalion in settling the most acute conflict in Tajikistan. Thus, the burden to protect the Tajik-Afghan border is again placed on the Russian peacekeepers. According to General (Vitaliy Gritsan), the Kyrgyz battalion's withdrawal seriously aggravates the situation on the border with Afghanistan, on whose territory the Islamic Tajik opposition molds new formations for a future offensive.

CIS Defense, Security Delegation Visits Tajikistan

LD2803141393 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] The visit to Tajikistan by members of the Commission for Defense and Security of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly was useful and fruitful. This was stated by Pitashev, head of the delegation and chairman of the Committee for Defense and Security of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, to a KHOVAR agency correspondent. He also noted that the delegation—which included representatives of the Supreme Soviets of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus, and representatives of the chief commissariat of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS—had an opportunity during their three-day visit to get acquainted with the

current sociopolitical situation in Tajikistan and meet the leadership of the Republic.

The head of the delegation noted that its members were faced with a number of tasks of mutual interest to CIS countries, the tackling of which is aimed at ensuring stability in Tajikistan in conformity with the documents on Tajikistan previously adopted by the heads of states of the Commonwealth. They are, first of all, the remanning of the frontier armed units of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan and the joint protection of the Tajik-Afghan borders with other Commonwealth countries with the aim of preventing the infiltration of weapons and drugs.

Another task was to discuss the plight of the 201st Russian Motorized Rifle Division in Tajikistan—which is the guarantor of stability in the region—without interfering in the internal political matters of the sovereign state.

During the visit, members of the Commission of Defense and Security of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly met the commanders, officers, and warrant officers of the Pyanj Frontier Detachment and the 201st Russian Motorized Rifle Division.

Official Says Tripartite Economic Union May Destabilize CIS

LD2903140093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Lidia Peresypkina]

[Text] Minsk March 29 TASS—A senior CIS representative criticised the proposal of the Belarusian prime minister to create a tri-partite economic union of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan.

The proposal of Vyacheslav Kebich may trigger serious changes in relations among CIS states, coordinator of the CIS working group Ivan Korotchenya told "NARODNAYA GAZETA" on Monday.

The union of the three states will ruin all economic agreements in the Commonwealth and will not facilitate the creation of a single economic space in which all former Soviet Republics are interested, according to Korotchenya.

He welcomed the proposals of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev who link economic cooperation to a speedy ratification of the CIS charter.

Korotchenya said he sympathises with Yeltsin's appeal for joint effort to get out of the economic crisis and for new forms of economic cooperation among CIS members. The coordinator believes such forms may include the creation of transnational associations in various branches of economy, of customs unions and free trade zone. This will facilitate the formation of a single economic space and a common market in future, he added.

CIS Agriculture Conference Held in Kazakhstan

OW2903130793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Commonwealth of Independent States "should finally live up to the hopes of the nations united by it and switch from signing various kinds of agreements to fulfilling them," claimed President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. He appeared at a meeting of leaders of agricultural complexes from former Soviet republics which opened Monday in Akmola (former Tselinograd, Kazakhstan).

Participating in the conference are vice premiers and agriculture ministers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and, as an observer, Estonia.

Nazarbayev said he proposed that leaders of the states which had signed the CIS Charter "form the core of the Commonwealth, the standing interstate economic committee." As a first step toward restoring contacts he urged participants in the meeting to "speed up the formation of a common agrarian market and establish an interstate council on agricultural industry issues." "When the issue is of daily bread," said Nazarbayev, "we can and must agree." "Kazakhstan," Nazarbayev claimed, "was and still is the main grain producing republic in the CIS." Each year Kazakhstan cultivates grain on 22 Mn [million] hectares of land, producing 25-26 Mn tons of grain. In order to maintain that level of production, Kazakhstan will need orders for the next 5 to 10 years. Otherwise, said Nazarbayev, the republic will be forced to reduce their grain crops to 16-17 Mn hectares and cut durum wheat production by 70%.

The Kazakh president supported a set pricing policy for CIS members and limits on the profitability levels of equipment manufacturing enterprises.

Nazarbayev Addresses Conference

LD2903153093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Omurek Yerkimbayev and TASS correspondents Gennadiy Kulagin and Anatoliy Shevelev for TASS]

[Text] Akmola March 29 TASS—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev spoke out in favour of maintaining a single economic space on the territory of the former Soviet Union. He said this should by no means infringe on the interests of sovereign states. Conversely, pooling the independent republics' efforts and potentialities, creating conditions for free trade and a customs union are meant to help them not only survive but also climb out of crisis.

Nazarbayev addressed a conference of agriculture ministers of the CIS, Baltics and Transcaucasia which is currently in session in Akmola. He emphasised the importance of working out urgent measures to prepare and carry out the entire agricultural work in the current year, which can be done only by joint efforts. "The accomplishment of this task will become the basis for a stable food supply of our countries' population and ultimately—for the irreversibility of socio-economic reforms being enacted in them," he said.

"Life dictates to all of us the need to agree without delay on coordinated actions in the agro-industrial sector — to re-build and bolster mutually beneficial links in the supply of material and technical resources, provision of services, rational utilisation of capacities to produce machinery, equipment, fertilizers, pesticides and animals.

"A host of problems concerning unifying efforts to develop and implement zonal and regional concepts, technologies and machinery systems and attract foreign investments in the industry deserve a detailed discussion. It is likewise important to agree to expedite bank settlement transactions and on other issues."

Nazarbayev voiced hope that farmers will support his proposal to the heads of state which signed the CIS charter for creating a community that would really be viable.

A range of documents are expected to be adopted upon the results of the conference, among them agreements on inter-state relations in agriculture and related industries, on a single agricultural market and reciprocal supplies, on setting up a council of heads of the agro-industrial sectors of the states which were former union republics.

Draft Cooperation Agreement Signed

OW2903181393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leaders of agrarian branches of CIS countries and Transcaucasian republics, namely Agriculture Ministers and Vice Premiers in charge of the agrarian sector, prepared and signed a draft agreement on inter-state cooperation in the sphere of agricultural complex on Monday [29 March] in Akmol (former Tselinograd, Kazakhstan).

The agreement (signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine) is aimed at preserving of economic contacts within the agricultural-industrial complex and implementation of coordinated actions to provide population with food stuffs and industry with raw materials on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, and mutual assistance.

The participants of this meeting advocated observance of food stuffs deliveries and agricultural raw materials, exchange with raw materials to satisfy the needs of food and processing branches of industry.

The agreement foresees unification of efforts in the field of investment, inter-bank, scientific-technical, information, and other kinds of cooperation. The participants of the meeting recognized it expedient to develop trade-economic relations directly between farms and enterprises along with the restoration of horizontal contacts.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the initiator of this meeting, reconfirmed his position regarding preserving of a single economic space on the territory of the former USSR and declared that he does not mind "creation of a political or a new state confederative union." "We should exist each for each other," said he and, consequently, it is necessary to create "viable economic space," to create conditions for free trade and to conclude a customs alliance "on a new basis."

Nazarbayev said that with every new summit of heads of CIS member-states we stop to voice promises "about integration," about its development on a new basis under the absence of borders and customs offices. He spoke in favor of creation of an inter-state economic committee.

Nazarbayev pointed out that the heads of CIS states and governments had signed more than 300 documents already but the process of their implementation is out of control. Heads of states "have not justified the hopes for formation of a creative Commonwealth," the Kazakh President believes. That is why those who sharply feel the devastation of disintegration, namely the agricultural and industrial workers, oil workers and machine-building workers, should immediately start to solve integration issues. According to Nazarbayev, the agrarians were the first to make such a move, having decided to proceed with the policy of preserving of cooperation and all those contacts which help to solve sharp economic problems.

The participants of the conference have formed an inter-governmental council on agricultural-industrial complex to coordinate economic and organizational activity aimed at the development of mutually beneficial relations between the states which have signed a draft agreement on stabilization and further development of the agricultural-industrial complex.

A coordinator of the CIS working group Ivan Korotchenya declared to Interfax that Nazarbayev's initiative is just in time; the documents developed at the meeting in Akmol will be considered at the next session of the Council of heads of states. About 40 such branch councils and committees have been created within the CIS already, all of them are working to form a single economic space.

CIS Oil, Gas Secretariat Established

LD3003113293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1116 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Senior executives of the fuel and energy complex of CIS countries met on Tuesday to set up a standing body of the Intergovernmental Council for Oil and Gas. This will be a secretariat with headquarters in the Siberian town of Surgut, the Tyumen region.

Yuriy Vershinin, director general of the Tyumenneftegas research and production amalgamation, was appointed head of the secretariat. The newly-established body is expected to meet quarterly. The first meeting is due to be held in Surgut this June.

Today's session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Oil and Gas also passed a decision to convene in August, 1993, a meeting of heads of government and plenipotentiary representatives of the council member-countries in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Mar

LD3003054893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0540 GMT 30 Mar 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Today's Moscow-based press highlights the results of the four-day 9th Extraordinary Congress of the People's Deputies of Russia.

"During these troubled days (of the congress proceedings) the government fully supported Russian President Boris Yeltsin," writes ROSSIISKIE VESTI.

"More than 100,000 people, who gathered for a meeting on the Vasiliyevsky Slope on March 20, applauded not only the president but Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin as well...

"People came to see that the administration of the country was not out of control and that it was in the firm hands of people capable of efficiently taking the actual situation into account and flexibly reacting to it," the newspaper pointed out.

At the same time, in the newspaper's view, the congress headed by parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov consolidated "on the platform of a vehement non-acceptance of the economic and political reforms policy being pursued by Boris Yeltsin and the government".

Describing as a "rather extremist act" "the congress' personal attack on the president and the parliament speaker", ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA explains this by the fact that political parties and movements, which establish civilised relations between themselves, are taking shape in the country rather successfully. They agonisingly look for ways to participate in the making of important state decisions and seek to overcome the increasingly painful "political inferiority" complex which imposes "rather impulsive acts" upon their young leaders.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR), in an article headlined "Only Reason Should Prevail in Decision-Making, Not Emotions", reports the results of the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. The newspaper's opinion is that the congress developments have shown that "the authorities are no longer capable of coming to terms and that neither impeachment of the president or dissolution of the congress would lead to the long-awated civil unity and concord. In the near future, people of Russia can hardly count on tranquil life ... as experience shows, there is only one way out, namely, to enable the people to have the say".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA visualises such a way out in "voluntary and early elections of the executive authority and lawmakers". Only in this way the mighty power would be able to make headway from what is latently felt to be dead-centre, the newspaper maintains.

PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA write about rallies, involving many thousands of people, in Moscow on Monday, and a rough treatment of People's Deputy Aleksandr Galichnikov by 'democrats', with the rough treatment being provoked, as the newspapers put, by the mayoral authorities.

In the opinion of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, by passing the resolution "On Urgent Measures Aimed at Keeping the Constitutional System of the Russian Federation", the congress as a matter of fact considerably truncated the rights and powers of Boris Yeltsin: suspended a number of presidential decrees and abolished the institution of presidential representatives at the local level.

PRAVDA reports the 29th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) held in Moscow on March 26-27. The congress reorganised the party into a union of Communist Parties. The newspaper views this as an obvious step towards the unity of the communists of the former Soviet Union.

Newspapers' pages are taken up mainly with the texts of speeches made at the 9th Congress by deputies, the president, the parliament speaker, the prime minister and other Russian leaders.

Noteworthy among reports from flashpoints are those on the extension of the state of emergency in North Ossetia and Ingushetia until May 31, and the action taken by Georgian Interior-Ministry personnel against the editorial office of the newspaper ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYE VEDOMOSTI (TRANSCAUCASIAN MILITARY GAZETTE) which upholds the interests of the Russian-speaking population.

Foreign Ministry Aide on Vancouver Summit Expectations

OW3003140993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Reports prepared by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] So far there are no plans to sign any documents at the meeting between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton in Vancouver. Nevertheless participants in the summit, where the USA will be represented by its "highest echelons of power," will adopt a statement on the prospects for partnership between the two countries, INTERFAX's correspondent learned this on Tuesday [30 March] from a high-ranking member of Russia's Foreign Ministry, who is in charge of relations with North America.

Bill Clinton, he said, is expected to bring to Vancouver a package of economic measures designed to give aid to Russia. Moscow hopes that these will include the allocation of about one billion dollars to contribute to the efforts to stabilize the ruble. It is believed that this program will become a part of the ruble stabilization fund, for which international financial institutions intended to allocate about six billion dollars a year ago. Nevertheless INTERFAX's interviewee declined to make predictions as to the size of the sum Washington might allocate to combat inflation in Russia.

Russia's Foreign Ministry expects that the USA might give guarantees for the American companies' investments in Russia's energy industries, and grant funds for programs aimed at training specialists in Russia.

However, the high-ranking diplomat said, Moscow is interested primarily "in serious and equitable economic cooperation, rather than in humanitarian aid, even if it is worth billions of dollars." According to him, at the meeting in Vancouver Russia intends to point once again to the need to create normal conditions for competition between Russian and American technologies in the American and other markets. This concerns particularly space- related technologies, arms trade and the sales of weapons-grade uranium in the American market. "We are engaged in intensive negotiations on uranium sales with the USA," said the Russian diplomat. Washington, he added, has taken a "tough" stand.

"What we need is simply access to markets," INTERFAX's interviewee pointed out. "In the meantime the Jackson-Vannick amendment, under which Russia is viewed as a communist country, is still in force in the USA."

Christopher Cited on Support for Yeltsin, Reforms

PM3003115593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 93 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Warren Christopher on Vancouver Meeting: Our Bags Are Already Packed"]

[Text] Washington—"The Russian parliament is not currently a model of democracy. It was elected by a means that you would hardly call democratic. I do not think that the parliament is a democratic institution," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday.

His statements are a fairly clear hint of Washington's readiness to back the Kremlin in virtually all actions that might be taken in relation to the Russian parliament.

Speaking on a CBS-TV program, the secretary of state stressed that the United States "has an interest in democracy and market reforms in Russia and we will offer President Boris Yeltsin all the support we can." W. Christopher particularly noted that he received assurances from [Russian Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev, who visited Washington last week, of the Kremlin's respect for civic freedoms and that freedom of the press is being upheld. At the same time the secretary of state voiced concern that the Russian parliament "has established control over the mass media."

W. Christopher said that a U.S.-Russian summit meeting will take place, as planned, in Vancouver 3-4 April. In some respects "our bags are already packed," he said.

The secretary of state recalled that President Clinton will announce an aid package for Russia at the Vancouver meeting. But since it is a question not only of bilateral but also of multilateral aid, some things will still be worked out during the period prior to the G-7 meeting in July.

Christopher emphasized however that any expenditure in this area will be far less than that which the United States would incur were the reforms in Russia to collapse. "If Yeltsin is overthrown," Christopher said, "if the development of the situation is reversed, it is likely that the nuclear threat will rear its head again and that we will once again have to increase our military budget."

Incidentally, on Saturday Secretary of Defense Les Aspin promulgated the draft military budget for fiscal 1994. The budget is $263 billion, $10 billion less than was allocated during the current fiscal year. One of the features of the draft, which is still to be finalized, is that virtually all the main arms development programs will remain untouched.

Commentator Discusses Draft U.S. Military Budget

LD2903190593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov; read by announcer]

[Text] The Pentagon has requested $263.4 billion for the new fiscal year, beginning with 1 October. This is $10 billion below this year's spending level. The Democrats, however, promised more drastic cuts in the national defense spending. Commenting, Vladislav Kozyakov says:

The Pentagon's draft budget may be described as the first that takes into account the post-Cold War change. No cuts would be possible if confrontation continued between Moscow and Washington. Nonetheless, why have the White House and the Pentagon decided to delay the realization of the President's election pledges? During the election campaign, the Democrats were calling for a higher pace of transition to a civilian-oriented economy and the American taxpayer could hope for an additional $110 billion reduction in defense spending in the five coming years. What has happened over the few past months? Why does the Pentagon insist that it should be given time, at least till next summer, to consider major cuts in its budget?

Defense Secretary Les Aspin says that in the past United States defense planning revolved around the problem of the Soviet threat. Even taken together, such regional threats as Iraq, Libya, and North Korea cannot balance the global threat of the Cold War period. Developments in Russia and other former Soviet republics, say local armed conflicts or the political crisis in Moscow, are at times alarming. But global confrontation between Russia and the United States seems hardly possible now. Even if the Russian Government and the opposition differ on matters of foreign policy, they differ only on ways to ensure the national interest and create favorable conditions for reform.

The mentality of the confrontation period may in part account for the Pentagon's reluctance to slash its budget. In addition, military conversion is a difficult undertaking and arms producers tend to pursue interests of their own. A broader glance at the problem reveals, however, that the future belongs to a bold strategy for an end to the Cold War militarization. As yet the United States is lagging behind Russia in efforts to ensure the realization of such a strategy.

U.S. Committee Attends Conference on Russia's Refugees

LD3003105093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Problems linked with the protection of refugees and the role of non-governmental organisations in guaranteeing their legal backing are in the focus of an international conference, which opened here today. It was called on the initiative of the "Lawyers for Civil Rights" Committee of the United States and the "Civil Assistance" Committee of Russia.

According to representative of the U.S. Lawyers' Committe Arthur Helton, the meeting is not political, but rather humanitarian. Its purpose is to draw up, jointly with government structures and international organisations, some concrete mechanisms to aid refugees in Russia. At the same time, he went on record for the establishment of a single international centre of information on refugee problems.

The participants of the conference, including representatives from the Russian Federal Migration Service, the Foreign Ministry and several non-governmental organisations, have expressed the unanimous view that refugee problems in the republics of the former USSR have already become inter-state issues. According to Vyacheslav Bakhmin, director of the Department for Humanitarian and Cultural Cooperation of the Russian Foreign Ministry, an effective solution of the refugees' problem calls, on the one hand, for a corresponding legislative foundation and, on the other, coordinated efforts on the part of the Federal Migration Service and non-governmental and international organisations.

It was stated during the conference that non-governmental organisations would lobby Russian and international political circles to get a part of the Western money, promised to Russia, in order to be able to accommodate forced migrants in Russia, will strive to obtain governmental and parliamentary privileges for regions ready to welcome and help forced migrants. They also believe that the humanitarian aid, allocated to refugees, should be distributed not through state channels, but through the church, through international charity organisations and the Red Cross.

The conference decided to hold a plenary meeting and discuss the establishment of an international coordination council to aid refugees in Russia. Its participants will visit some compact refugee settlements in Kaluga and Ryazan regions.

Kozyrev Arrives in Tehran, Comments on Congress Vote

OW2903084393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0831 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I like it that the situation at the Congress on Sunday [28 March] did not go to the extreme," Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said commenting on

the development at the 9th extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies upon his arrival on an official visit to Iran last night.

Talking to a group of journalists in Tehran's airport, he noted that "power can only be taken back by those who have given it, i.e. by the people through their vote." Head of the Russian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] said he was confident that the Russian people will be provided this opportunity in the near future.

Asked by Interfax' Igor Porshnev whether any party in the Congress has won, Andrey Kozyrev answered that "based on the rules proposed to us by the other side, no one can be victor, whereas Russia may loses as a result of all this." In the words of Mr Kozyrev, these rules should be radically changed following the national plebiscite on April 25.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Velayati

LD2903184593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1348 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 29 March—Today Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is in Tehran on an official visit. In the course of the talks there was discussion of questions of bilateral cooperation, the two states' interaction in the regional arena and some international problems.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation confirmed the two countries' firm intention to develop links in various fields on the basis of equality and mutual advantage, and to promote settlement of conflicts and improvement of the situation in the region.

A. Kozyrev conveyed to A. A. Hashemi-Rafsanjani a written message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, which was received with gratitude.

Replying to the ITAR-TASS correspondent's question after the completion of the meeting, the Russian minister pointed out that "it was a very frank and constructive conversation." "The Iranian president's perception of the processes taking place in our country was a positive one," A. Kozyrev continued. "During the conversation, note was made of the understanding that Russia and Iran were neighbors, and therefore we should have strong relations based on common interests." A particular place was taken up at the meeting, the minister continued, with questions connected with overcoming the negative aftermath of the past, especially the ideologization of relations. It was stressed, A. Kozyrev said, that "renunciation of one ideology should not be replaced by extremism in other spheres, including that of religion." Both states are interested in securing the stability of the region, and on this basis they could develop bilateral links.

It was the common opinion that this was the longest audience that A. A. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has ever given a foreign guest; it lasted considerably more than an hour. The Russian delegation's spokesman said there was an extremely detailed conversation about the events taking place in Russia now. There was also discussion of the basic political document establishing the level of relations which have taken shape between Russia and Iran. It is envisaged that this will be signed by the presidents of the two states. The present situation in Tajikistan was examined in detail in the context of securing regional security and stability.

As regards the prospects for developing commercial and economic relations, A. Kozyrev said that "the economic reforms being carried out in Russia today will help resolve the existing problems in Russo-Iranian economic relations."

The Russian and Iranian ministers of foreign affairs had talks this morning. 'Ali Akbar Velayati welcomed Andrey Kozyrev's visit, noting that he had long been awaited in Tehran. The Iranian minister pointed to the long history of good-neighborly relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that the events of the last few years in Russia will give a fresh boost to bilateral cooperation.

The signing of the protocol on the political consulatations between the foreign policy departments of Russia and Iran and also the two ministers' news conference are expected this evening.

Press Release Issued

LD2903183693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1734 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Georgiy Shmelyov and Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran March 29 TASS—Russia and Iran affirmed their interest in the development of bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural spheres and ascertained conformity of prospects of this cooperation to long-term interests of the two countries, according to a joint Russo-Iranian press report issued today.

With the aim of strengthening legal and political basis of bilateral relations, Foreign Ministers of Russia Andrey Kozyrev and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, respectively, initialled a political document on fundaments of mutual relations and principles of goodneighbourly cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran which will be later signed by heads of states of the two countries.

The ministers also signed a protocol on political consultations between Ministries of Foreign Affairs and a memorandum on visaless travel on diplomatic and official passports.

Both sides paid special attention to possibilities of multisided interactions in the Caspian Sea region, above all, within the Caspian Region State Cooperation Organization framework, the press report said. In this connection an agreement was reached to hold a deputy foreign minister level meeting in Moscow towards the end of April.

Iran and Russia favoured the continuation of cooperation in the military technology sphere, declaring that it will bear a defensive character and will not be directed against any third country.

In the context of accomplishing Russo-Iranian projects in the sphere of peaceful use of atomic energy, Russia as a nuclear power and Iran as a state, not striving to possess nuclear weapons, affirmed their adherence to commitments, ensuing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Iran and Russia noted concurrence of interests in ensuring security and stability in strategically important areas of Asia and the Caucasus.

Both sides favoured a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and stability there, and expressed their readiness to help resolve the crisis.

The ministers emphasised the importance of ensuring peace, stability and security in the Persian Gulf region, according to the document.

Speaking of the necessity to observe existing peace accords between Afghan groups, both sides noted that the restoration of peace and harmony in this country is possible only if all groups and strata of the Afghan society take part in it.

The two sides expressed deep concern over the continuing bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the statement said. They favoured the search of a peaceful solution to this conflict through meetings and negotiations on the basis of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country, considering it inadmissible to let the conflict spread beyond this region.

Kozyrev Interviewed

OW2903192993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 29 Mar 93

[All quotation marks as received; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Opponents of reforms in Russia are "political dwarfs" who have already spoiled and are continuing to spoil President Yeltsin's and Russian people's blood," the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, on an official visit in Tehran, declared in his interview with Interfax. In Kozyrev's words, he is an optimist and is sure that "the political dwarfs" will not manage to stop democratic reforms in Russia as it was more than 70 years ago. "They failed to do this in August and will not manage to do this in March, - Kozyrev emphasized. - They won't be able to saddle Russia any more." The President elected by the people remains a guarantor of the irreversibility of Russia's reforms.

In Tehran Kozyrev and his Iranian colleague 'Ali Akbar Velayati signed a protocol on political consultations between Foreign Ministries of two countries and an inter-governmental memorandum on non-visa trips for those with diplomatic and government-service passports. The ministers have also initialled a political document on principles of mutual relations and principles of good-neighbor cooperation between Russia and Iran. This document is to be signed by heads of states who will make their final decision about the name of this document, an agreement or a declaration.

The Minister's political adviser Galina Sidorova noted during her conversation with journalists that the principle of a new strategic partnership is built into this document. In Sidorova's words, Moscow and Tehran are interested in an immediate settlement of conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other "hot spots" of the planet.

Speaking about Russia's domestic affairs, Sidorova expressed the opinion that the "ideologically extremist part" of the deputies corps will not adopt anything that the Russian Foreign Ministry favors because it uses foreign policy to solve its own inner-political tasks. At the same time, Sidorova said, Russia's Foreign Ministry is ready for cooperation and is already fruitfully cooperating with a sound part of the deputies corps.

Kozyrev, Velayati News Conference

LD2903205593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2024 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran March 30 TASS—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described the centuries-long history of Iranian- Russian relations as traditionally friendly. He and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev gave a joint press conference upon the completion of the official part of Kozyrev's visit to Iran.

Responding to a question from ITAR-TASS, Velayati stressed that Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow gave a fresh impetus to the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said there are now good opportunities for boosting bilateral relations in a variety of areas, which is evidenced by the signing of documents on cooperation.

Describing a political document on the basic principles of relationships and good neighbourly cooperation.

which was initialled today and will soon be signed by the states' presidents, Velayati observed that the Iranian side proposes to name it as a declaration and the Russian side - as a treaty. This, however, does not at all change the essence of the document.

On Tehran's position towards settling the conflict in Bosnia, Velayati emphasised that "it is crystal clear". Iran is against ruthlessness and bloodshed. It has accomplished a good deal for the earliest and fair settlement of this problem. The goal of the Islamic republic is to establish peace but not at any price. Peace should be fair and honourable on condition that the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina is honoured.

Velayati spoke out in favour of joint actions with Russia in settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, noting that Tehran and Moscow have virtually common positions on this issue.

Asked about the correlation between Russian-American and Russian-Iranian relations, Kozyrev said both the Washington charter and the just initialled political document emphasise interest in enhancing stability and security in the region. "Our friendly relations with the U.S. and Iran supplement rather than contradict each other," Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev described cooperation within the framework of the organisation of the Caspian states as a priority trend in the development of Russian-Iranian relations. He declared in favour of creating an additional mechanism of such a cooperation and did not rule out the possibility of drafting basic documents to be signed by the heads of the Caspian Sea states.

On the settlement in Bosnia, Kozyrev noted that Russia calls for signing as soon as possible an agreement on the basis of the Vance-Owen plan and urged the Bosnian Serbs to join this plan immediately. As for cruelties, Kozyrev said they are excessive and all parties involved in the conflict are held responsible for them.

Kozyrev emphasised that Russia and Iran follow with sympathy events in the two countries without interfering in each other's internal affairs.

Kozyrev Ends Official Visit

LD3003082193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0632 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Oleg Kuzmin]

[Excerpts] Tehran, 30 Mar [ITAR-TASS]—Completing the official part of a two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left for the ancient Iranian city of Esfahan today.

A. Kozyrev and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who saw him off at the airport, evaluated positively the results of the visit in a brief conversation at the airport and expressed confidence that it will promote the strengthening of bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

After a sightseeing tour of Esfahan, the Russian foreign minister is expected to return to Moscow today. [passage omitted]

Velayati Assesses Visit

LD3003115693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0721 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] [No dateline as received] [Iranian Foreign Minister] 'Ali Akbar Velayati has described the outcome of the official visit by Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev as "highly positive". In an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent at Mehrabad Airport after A. Kozyrev's departure for Esfahan the Iranian minister stressed that "immense work" was done during the talks. "We signed three important documents and resolved to implement them consistently. The sides will be continuing regular consultations on bilateral and regional problems," A.A. Velayati noted.

In his words, a series of very important specific issues was discussed during the visit. Specifically, Iran and Russia decided to step up the development of cooperation among the Caspian states. In the very near future—in April—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi will be going to Moscow to take part in a meeting of experts on cooperation in the Caspian basin.

The Iranian minister went on to say that the two states expressed the intention of cooperating closely in securing peace and calm in the region—in central Asia and the Caucasus. This is very important for both Iran and Russia.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Middle East Peace Efforts

LD2903190993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1850 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—A Russian Foreign Ministry official visited the Middle Eastern region as part of the Russian co-sponsor's efforts to push forward the Middle Eastern peace process. He held substantive talks with leaders of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and representatives of the Palestinians on the occupied territories.

The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement today saying that the Russian side availed itself of this opportunity to state loud and clear that the negotiating process should be resumed and the ninth round of bilateral talks be held within the time-frame set by the co-sponsors—from April 20 to May 6. We are convinced that this is a feasible task because the level of mutual understanding, though the minimum one, that opens the way towards the parties sitting down at the negotiating table once again was managed to be achieved with the

co-sponsors' efforts. The contacts the co-sponsors had with Palestinians in Washington also proved constructive.

At the same time, we turn a blind eye to the fact, and the meetings held by the Russian Foreign Ministry official in the Middle Eastern capitals have reaffirmed this, that the problem of deportation remains a serious obstacle to the peace efforts. The wave of violence does not abate ever since the moment when 400 Palestinians were deported.

Regrettably, extremist circles, from both sides, which are not interested in the peaceful outcome, try to exploit the situation. Evidently, the orgy of forcible actions can be damped only by finally settling the problem of the deported in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799.

The Russian side will continue to push for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 within the shortened terms like for the adoption by Israel of specific measures to improve the humanitarian situation on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. We expect all of the involved parties to display restraint and prudence to defuse tension on these territories and stave off a new bloodshed.

In parallel with and jointly with the American co-sponsor, the Russian side will carry on efforts aimed at resuming Arab-Israeli talks and advancing towards real results on the way to peace in the Middle East. In so doing, we will unswervingly abide by all of our commitments stemming from our status of the co-sponsor and the accords reached within the framework of the Madrid peace process, the Russian Foreign Ministry statement says.

Yeltsin's Special Envoy Leaves for Belgrade

OW3003141993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Reports prepared by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A special envoy of the Russian president, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin who is in charge of the endeavors to settle the Yugoslav crisis, flew to Belgrade Tuesday [30 March] morning.

As Interfax learned from the Russian Foreign Ministry, he intends to conduct negotiations with the leadership of the United Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), and with spokesmen for Bosnian Serbs.

According to preliminary plans, Churkin will stay in former Yugoslavia till the end of this week.

In comments on the latest developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina, a Foreign Ministry official has told Interfax that Russia continues to view the plan worked out by the co-chairmen of the Geneva conference on a settlement in former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, as "the only practicable foundation for resolving the conflict." The diplomat made it clear that Vitaliy Churkin will try to "persuade the leaders of the Serb community of Bosnia-Herzegovina to sign the Vance-Owen plan." It's common knowledge that of the three sides involved in the armed clashes in Bosnia-Herzegovina in one form or another, the leaders of Bosnian Croats and Muslims have already agreed to the plan, and the representatives of Bosnian Serbs alone still refuse to sign the document.

Final Stage of Cuban Troop Withdrawal Begins

LD3003055393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0250 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Sereda]

[Text] Havana, 30 Mar—The final stage in the withdrawal of the Russian military brigade from Cuba has started. The motorship Kosmonaut Yuriy Gagarin left the port of Havana on Monday evening, heading for St. Petersburg. Almost 500 Russian servicemen and the members of their families are on board.

The withdrawal of the brigade is being carried out strictly according to the timetable established in the course of the Russian-Cuban talks which took place in Havana last September. This was reported by Colonel Vyacheslav Bibikov, commander of the Russian military brigade, in an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the eve of the departure of the vessel Kosmonaut Yuriy Gagarin. In keeping with the agreements reached at that time the Russian military brigade will be withdrawn from the territory of Cuba in stages before the second half of this year, he recalled.

By the time that the agreements were signed the Russian brigade numbered slightly more that 1,500 people. In November the passenger liner Ivan Franko left the port of Havana with the first group of Russian servicemen who were leaving Cuba. In December this same vessel brought a second group back to their homeland.

The Cuban side circulated a government report on the results of the talks in which it was recalled that the separate motorized rifle brigade was deployed in Cuba after the Caribbean crisis and the withdrawal of Soviet nuclear missiles from the island. In response to the decision of the Soviet leadership made in 1991 "On Unilateral Procedure Without Preliminary Consultations," Cuba stated that the only balanced, just, and worthy solution would be one of the simultaneous withdrawal of U.S. troops from the naval base at Guantanamo and of Soviet military personnel. This proposal by Cuba, as the Cuban side pointed out, "was rejected by the United States with the arrogance inherent in the U.S. Administration." In its turn the Soviet Union rejected the variant whereby these two issues were linked. In the new conditions which had emerged as a result of the collapse of the USSR, according to the Cuban Government statement, "the presence of the military brigade on

our national territory" did not make sense" because "it appears illogical to tie up the withdrawal of the brigade with the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the naval base at Guantanamo."

'Radioelectronic Center' To Remain

OW3093140693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Reports prepared by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The withdrawal of Russian servicemen stationed in Cuba is to be concluded in late July this year, in accordance with its schedule. On Monday [29 March] another group of privates, officers and members of their families, a total of 15 hundred people, left Cuba, to arrive in the port of St. Petersburg within two weeks. INTERFAX's correspondent learned this from a high-ranking member of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Latin American department.

In 1991 Russia stopped its military supplies to Cuba, the official said. The deliveries of MiG-29 planes in 1988 and 1989 can be viewed as the last big consignment of weapons dispatched there.

According to the diplomat, negotiations between Moscow and Havana continue. The two sides are discussing who will operate radioelectronic center, built by the USSR to carry out electronic intelligence and surveillance in the Western Hemisphere, above all in the USA.

Russia's decision to maintain the center has already been taken in principle, said INTERFAX's interviewee. Cuba might be compensated for the presence of the center on its soil "in the form of supplies of building materials, spare parts, uniforms and some types of non-offensive weapons."

EBRD President Attali Continues Visit

Meets Rutskoy

OW2903193493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [29 March] in the Kremlin, the Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and the leader of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Jacques Attali discussed the terms under which the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is to render assistance to Russia. As Attali declared, next week he intends to meet with G-7 representatives to solve this issue.

The Vice President asked the leader of the European Bank not to connect the issue on rendering assistance with the political situation in Russia. "A delay of assistance can push Russia into final chaos," Rutskoy said. However, he believes that the credits should be returnable ones and should be granted for concrete programs. Rutskoy sees four priority directions: production of food stuffs, construction of apartment buildings, production of consumer goods and medicines.

Holds News Conference

OW2903193693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Jacques Attali, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), said at a news conference in Moscow Monday [29 March] that "the situation in Russia calls for specific action both on the part of the West and of Russia itself."

Attali made it plain that the western countries must agree to reschedule the foreign debt of Russia, offer it additional advantages in trade and economic relations and help it in stabilizing the ruble, financing small businesses, and training.

Attali also emphasized that financing of any projects in Russia was impossible "as long there is no political stability or coordination between authorities."

The EBRD President also said that an understanding had been reached with Russia on setting up within a few months of a fund to support small businesses.

Ronald Freeman, First Vice-President of the EBRD, said that the inflow of western investments into the oil and gas industry was contingent on the rate and conditions of privatization and on improvement of the taxation legislation in that field.

Further Attali Remarks

LD2903212493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2057 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Suprun, Aleksandr Smelyakov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—The situation forming in Russia calls for joint actions both on the part of Russia and the West, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) President Jacques Attali told a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists on Monday.

On the West's position, Attali emphasised that there is great interest in having the situation in Russia to be stabilised "not only because Russia is a mighty economic power but also because it is the largest military power." No one in the world is interested in the break-up of Russia as this happened with the Soviet Union, Attali noted.

Among the measures that could help achieve stabilisation in Russia, Attali named the deferral in debt repayments. He also believes that Western countries should lend financial support to Russia to stabilise the rouble and finance the development of small-scale enterprises. In his view, this will enable Russia to create new jobs when unemployment will surge as the country moves to convert the military industry to commercial production.

"My visit to Moscow is usual, businesslike rather than a demonstration of support to anyone," Attali said when asked about the goals of his visit to the Russian capital. Nevertheless, the EBRD supports Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Government in their efforts to enact reforms. The main goal of the visit is to concretise the areas and mechanism of cooperation. Attali did not deny that instability inside the country may affect the EBRD's operation in Russia which is one of this bank's members and founders.

Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy received Attali in the Kremlin on Monday. Rutskoy informed Attali about transformations in Russia, emphasising that the logic of the country's socio-economic development "brought the country to the need to revise the reform course."

Rutskoy said it would be inexpedient for the West to take a wait-and-see stance in issues of aid to Russia. This aid should be extended so that, first, it be channeled into the implementation of specific projects and, second, that tight control be established over the distribution and use of the extended credits. Rutskoy attributed to such projects the production of foodstuffs, clothes, consumer goods, medicines and the building of housing.

Attali will leave Moscow on March 30.

Chernomyrdin Rejects EBRD Credits

LD2903214593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, held a news conference on the results of his Moscow meetings with the prime minister, and the vice president and Board of the Central Bank of Russia. In the course of the talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin, he put forward the idea of granting fresh credits to Russia on the security of land, mineral deposits, and other natural resources, but the Russian premier rejected this idea, stressing that Russia could pay for the credits in ready-made output, and after detailed calculation of joint projects it could provide state guarantees for them.

Defense Ministry Protests Shooting by Georgian Troops

OW2903120793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry has announced its "decisive protest to the Georgian side on the unending shooting of Russian military objects" in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

Over the past few days, the Defense Ministry's press department reports, repeated artillery fire on a Russian military company deployed near the Esheri. No casualties have been reported. The Russian forces were forced to open return fire.

Troops Hold Raw Materials at Baltic Border

OW3003135693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1314 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Over March, Russian border guards prevented the smuggling of more than 160 Mn [million] rubles worth of goods to the Baltic countries.

The press service of the headquarters of the Russian Federation's frontier troops informed Interfax that nonferrous metals (more than 150 tons) and fuel and lubricants (about 70 tons) accounted for a larger part of the detained goods.

DPRK Envoy Says U.S. 'Pressure Tactics' Will Not Work

LD2903204593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2027 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Krylovich and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Ambassador of Korea to Russia Son Song-pil in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS said on Monday that no problem, involving North Korea can be resolved, using pressure tactics. The United States must understand this and begin negotiations with us as equal partners, he said.

The situation on the Korean Peninsula became aggravated, first of all, due to actions of the U.S., which held joint "Team Spirit" military exercises with South Korea, and used International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as an instrument to put political pressure on North Korea, the ambassador emphasised.

This stand of America compelled the North Korean Government to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Threats by the U.S. to involve the U.N. Security Council in the conflict so as to impose "collective sanctions" on North Korea can further aggravate the situation and compel North Korea to take "harsh and decisive retaliatory measures, the North Korean envoy warned. [no end quotation marks as received]

According to Son Song-pil, the conflict can be resolved by means of creating an "atmosphere of trust" between the two countries. This can be achieved only in case the

U.S. stops interfering in internal affairs of North Korea, withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from the territory of South Korea and give guarantees that no nuclear weapon will be used against North Korea, the North Korean ambassador emphasised.

Commentary Urges Pyongyang To Clarify Nuclear Project

SK2903114993 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 24 Mar 93

["Talk" by station commentator Yuriy Solton from the "Focus on Asia" program: "Will Pyongyang Make Public the Secret of Its Nuclear Project?"]

[Text] Tension is relaxing on the Korean peninsula. It has been reported that Pyongyang has lifted the complete combat-ready posture of its army. However, Pyongyang's official statements so far have not answered the question of whether it will accept International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspection of its military sites. The deadline given by the IAEA is 31 March.

Since its declaration on the withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], Pyongyang has kept silent on this matter. This has led people to suspect that its nuclear project has military purposes.

Regarding this, several recent newspaper articles have attracted our attention. In a report by its Moscow correspondent, Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN said that at the end of the Brezhnev rule, Pyongyang had planned to test its nuclear bombs at one of the Soviet nuclear test sites. There is also a report that Pyongyang has had secret dealings with Tehran. The report also says that the DPRK promised to hand over its technology for nuclear weapons manufacturing to Iran for $500 million. Moreover, Korea [Choson] is known to have completed its project to manufacture Soviet-designed Scud missiles. Iraq used a similar model during the Persian Gulf war. According to several other newspaper reports, Pyongyang has developed the Nodong 1 ballistic missile capable of loading a small nuclear warhead with a shooting range of up to 1,000 km.

This report is based on [word indistinct] experts' opinion and intelligence information. Therefore, its accuracy is (?beyond doubt).

Still, this report can hardly alla our doubts. In this regard, the United States, Japan, and the ROK are going so far as to prepare countermeasures: In the event that Pyongyang does not accept the IAEA's inspections, this issue will be discussed at the UN Security Council. Then, it will end up with sanctions against the DPRK.

China opposes the sanctions which would aggravate the situation. No one can exercise its influence on Pyongyang to ensure that it accepts the IAEA's inspection or rejoins the NPT. However, unless the DPRK clarifies its nuclear project, it may be faced with stern measures by its neighboring countries. Stability in the region will then be aggravated to the extreme.

Paper Views Increasing Military Spending in China

PM3003104993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "China Increases Defense Expenditure"]

[Text] Beijing—The PRC's military budget has increased for the fourth year running. Although China's relations with its neighbors have normalized during that period and a major conflict in East Asia has become extremely unlikely, Beijing is now allocating nearly twice as much money to the armed forces as it did four years ago. This year defense expenditure will increase by another 12.4 percent.

It is clear from Finance Minister Liu Zhongli's report at the current National People's Congress that the 3 million-strong Chinese Army will get more money despite the fact that the country is in a very difficult financial situation: Last year overall state expenditure exceeded revenue by 27 percent.

And the official military budget is only approximately one-half of actual military expenditure. It does not include sums allocated for new types of equipment and research in the sphere of armaments, for the redeployment of troops and provision for retired officers. Moreover, the Chinese People's Liberation Army [CPLA] possesses yet another important source of income. It exports weapons and sells refrigerators, radio sets, watches, and other consumer goods produced by defense enterprises.

Why did the CPLA need to increase its muscle power in peacetime? In a report to parliament Prime Minister Li Peng answered the question only in the most general way. According to him, it is necessary to create the best armed forces China can afford to maintain.

Such statements are scarcely going to reassure Vietnam and five other Asian states which are involved in the dispute with China over who owns several potentially oil-rich archipelagoes in the South China Sea. China's southern neighbors are frightened lest it use its growing military might to resolve the dispute in its favor.

Beijing categorically denies the charges of expansionism leveled against it in the foreign press. The PRC says that it is prepared to postpone a territorial settlement in the South China Sea until a future date, and in the meantime embark, together with the other claimants, on the development of the disputed islands' natural resources.

No matter who is right in these polemics, the Chinese politicians or their opponents, it is clear that a mighty economic power is coming into being on our southern borders, which will have a modern military machine in the next few years. One can only rejoice that Russia's good-neighborly ties with China are growing stronger.

It should not be forgotten, though, that local museums and historical maps show a good part of the Russian land marked as having been taken from China by force.

Turkey To Get Arms, Hardware for Interior Ministry

PM2903125593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 93 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Khovratovich report: "Russia Sold Turkey Arms Worth $75 Million"]

[Text] Istanbul—Turkey is set to purchase arms and combat hardware, including helicopters, worth $75 million from the Russian Federation. The two countries signed a protocol to this effect in Ankara.

After signing the agreement, Turkish Minister of the Interior Ismet Sezgin said that under the agreement the Russian Federation will supply the country with helicopters, as well as 25 BTR-60 and BTR-80 APC's, machine guns, carbines, and other arms. These weapons were ordered by the Turkish Gendarmerie Main Command. For the first time in the history of the Turkish Republic, the Armed Forces will use weapons from Russia. Previously this was impossible primarily because Turkey, as a NATO country, armed itself purely with American and West German weapons. "Thanks to the Russian weapons," Sezgin said after signing the protocol, "our Gendarmerie will be much stronger."

It has been learned here that Russia will receive just $15 million of the $75 million. The remaining currency will go to service Russia's debt to Turkey's "Eksimbank." A. Chernyshev, Russia's ambassador in Ankara, who signed the agreement on Russia's behalf, declared at a news conference after the signing that such a deal had been made possible thanks to the more than successful development of relations between Russia and Turkey.

Missiles Confiscated by German Police Did Not Belong to WGF

PM2903152193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Mar 93 p 1

[Report from Sergey Pashayev with Western Group of Forces: "Investigation in Kassel. Missiles Were Not Ours"]

[Text] With enviable patience official representatives of the Western Group of Forces [WGF] have been continuing to refute the constant insinuations and fabrications relating to the WGF. According to the latest report, German police in the city of Kassel (Hesse) confiscated four air-to-surface missiles allegedly belonging to the Russian Armed Forces WGF.

A special group of experts went to Kassel to clear up the question of ownership. A comparison of the registration numbers showed that the missiles seized by the police had not been supplied to WGF aviation and do not belong to the WGF.

UK Economist Sees 'Favorable Shifts' in Russian Economy

PM3003120193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 93 p 2

[S. Razin article under the "Russia's Economy" rubric: "Could Be Worse"]

[Text] "Could be worse" was how one might sum up the thrust of the first issue of the quarterly OBZOR EKONOMIKI ROSSII [REVIEW OF RUSSIA'S ECONOMY]. The new analytical journal has been prepared by two centers: The Russian Government Economic Reforms Center (leader—Sergey Vasilyev) and the London School of Economics Centre for Economic Performance (director—Professor Richard Layard).

"Despite the huge problems, favorable shifts are observable in Russia's economy," according to Prof. Layard. Among them the foreign expert pinpointed two in particular. The growth in soft loans, which caused an explosion in inflation, prices, and the number of stallholders, eased back a little in January-February. Meanwhile, in terms of the pace of privatization, Russia, proceeding at full speed, has outstripped the former CEMA countries. Profound, radical shifts are thus under way in Russian industry, shifts which will ultimately predetermine the outcome of the present political crisis in favor of market reforms and the president's line.

Prof. Layard is sure that the reforms in Russia will proceed with redoubled energy if the Central Bank comes under government control. Hyperinflation can be entirely avoided, in his opinion. The rate of circulation of money, which in recent months has not just not grown but has even fallen, is proof of this. Here main credit is undoubtedly due to Premier Chernomyrdin and Vice Premier Fedorov, who are restraining the appetite for credit of [Central Bank Chairman] Gerashchenko. Since Gaydar's resignation they have managed to reduce reciprocal nonpayments in industry from 3-4 percent of GNP to 0.8 percent, which makes it possible to sustain the output of consumer goods.

"The population is adapting to the market," according to Sergey Vasilyev. Recently prices for food have started rising more slowly than for industrial goods. Clearly, this phenomenon indicates that people have extra earnings, and the demand for clothing and home appliances immediately increased somewhat, which triggered a rise in prices. However, on the whole inflation has started falling: Whereas at the beginning of March the prices index for the week increased 5.2 percent, last week the figure was 3.8 percent. This would all seem to explain the manifestly curious state of affairs whereby the political crisis in Russia has influenced the currency auctions on the Moscow Exchange to a far lesser extent than the Hong Kong and Frankfurt exchanges, where the violent fluctuations in the currency rate are kept under observation. A telling comparison...

Ninth Congress of People's Deputies 29 March Session

Congress Resumes, Plans To Close for 'Umpteenth Time'

LD2903071693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0706 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—After Sunday's [29 March] vote of confidence in the president and parliament speaker, which had confirmed their powers, the 9th Congress of People's Deputies began its work today by discussing yesterday's events around the Kremlin, where two demonstations were staged—one in support of Boris Yeltsin and the other against him.

MPs Tamara Leta and Aleksandr Golishnikov accused the president of instigation and the law enforcement bodies of connivance with the crowd which, they claimed, had attacked deputies leaving the Kremlin. Golishnikov was wounded in the head.

Khasbulatov said that "outright calls to rebel" were made during yesterday's meeting. Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov noted that officials of the law enforcement bodies, responsible for all this, as well as people guilty of rioting, could be brought to book, to criminal responsibility included. The Congress summoned Moscow Mayor Luzhkov and Interior Minister Yerin to the Congress. Khasbulatov added that if the president dared make such calls, the Congress could go back to the question of his impeachment. The MPs instructed the Editorial Commission to draw up a "tough decision" on this matter.

The president did not attend the morning meeting.

Then the Congress continued to discuss the first item of its agenda: "On urgent measures to save the constitutional system". In addition a resolution on this item, the parliament is also to adopt a decision "on an all-Russia referendum on April 25, 1993 and the procedure for summing up its results". The Editorial Commission moved to adopt four amendments to this decision out of the 91 submitted to the Congress, including a suggestion to put off the preterm elections of the president and the MPs from 1993 to the spring of 1994. It has also been moved to formulate the second question of the referendum in the following way: "Do you approve of the socio-economic policy, carried out by the president of the Russian Federation and the Russian government beginning from 1992?" (instead of the "course of socio-economic reforms, conducted under the leadership of the president").

It is planned (for the umpteenth time) to close the Congress today.

Ryabov Reads Resolution on Constitutional Order

LD2903174193

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0628 GMT on 29 March broadcasts, as part of its coverage of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies in the Kremlin in Moscow, a speech by Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the drafting commission, during which he read out the "Resolution on Urgent Measures to Uphold the Constitutional Order of the Russian Federation."

Ryabov begins by saying that at the last Congress sitting, the draft was expounded; yesterday the second point of the draft was successfully resolved, so can be excised.

Ryabov explains that the present draft may be adopted as a basis, revised to take account of amendments within a set period of time, and then be resubmitted to the Congress; alternatively, Congress can go through the resolution point by point and then adopt it in principle. The congress votes to examine the draft point by point.

Ryabov then starts reading the draft resolution: "The first point, Paragraph 1: To establish that Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's decision, relating to his address to the citizens of Russia on 20 March 1993, was in breach of the Constitution, the Basic Law of the Russian Federation-Russia, as confirmed by the ruling of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation that it is incompatible with the Constitution of the Russian Federation; to register that Russian Federation President Yeltsin is personally accountable for the increased confrontation between the powers and the political opposition in society."

The Congress votes to amend the wording to "seriously in breach of the Constitution," and the whole of Paragraph 1 is adopted.

After several other proposed amendments are voted down, Ryabov continues: "Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the first point are logically connected, so I will read them out together, if I may." He continues: "To instruct the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation to petition the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation to verify the constitutionality of the following decrees of the Russian Federation president: On the activities of the executive bodies before the overcoming of the crisis of power, of 23 March 1993; on the representatives of the Russian Federation president in krays, oblasts, autonomous oblasts, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, of 5 February 1993; on the reorganization of the military structures of border and internal troops on the territory of the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation, and the state support for the Cossacks, of 15 March 1993. To suspend the operation of the decrees of the Russian Federation president until the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation has given its ruling.

"This provision is written in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution which is in force, Point 19, Article 109, and Article 104. Please vote to adopt this as a basis."

Khasbulatov then adds an addendum proposed by Ramazan Gadzimuratovich Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities: "Ramazan Gadzimuratovich asks the Congress to add the following before adopting this as a basis: The government of the Russian Federation is to take urgent measures to fulfill the Supreme Soviet resolution on the rehabilitation of the Cossacks. We did indeed adopt that resolution."

The Congress then votes to adopt the paragraphs in principle.

Ryabov continues: "There are two further paragraphs in this point. I will read them out, then we will adopt the whole point in principle: "To eliminate [likvidirovat] the institution of representatives of the Russian Federation president in krays, oblasts, autonomous oblasts, and autonomous okrugs, and in the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg; and to point out that the Russian Federation president has failed to fulfill the decisions of the Seventh and Eighth congresses of people's deputies of the Russian Federation in this respect."

Khasbulatov at this point intervenes to clarify "eliminate," suggesting that Ryabov intends "abolish." Ryabov apologizes and corrects the wording to "abolish."

Ryabov continues: "And lastly, to confirm the unshakability of the basic principles of the Constitutional order of the Russian Federation, including the sovereignty of the people, respect for human rights, federalism, the division of powers as the basis for the interaction of the legislative and executive powers, and accord between them; and to support the timely actions of the Constitutional Court in defending the constitutional order of the Russian Federation. Please put this point to the vote in principle."

The Congress approves.

Ryabov continues: "The third point: To ask the president of the Russian Federation to form a coalition government, a government of national consensus of the Russian Federation; to transfer all bodies and establishments formed by him implementing forms of state administration to the authority of the government of the Russian Federation; to abolish the Russian Federal Information Center; to dismiss individuals who have compromised themselves by preparing the address by the president of the Russian Federation to citizens of Russia on 20 March 1993 and decrees of the president of the Russian Federation contradicting the Constitution of the Russian Federation, and also by their activities damaging the stability of the constitutional system, and inciting social discontent."

Khasbulatov here adds the words "to transfer all bodies and institutions which have been formed under the president and which are not envisaged in the Constitution and the Law on the President," and with this amendment to the wording the point is adopted.

Ryabov reads the fourth point as follows: "To instruct the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation to consider the Draft Law of the Russian Federation on amendments and addenda to the Constitution, the Basic Law of the Russian Federation-Russia, which envisages: excising from the Constitution of the Russian Federation the clauses in Articles 104 and 109 which contravene the principle of the division of powers, which is enshrined in Articles 1 and 3 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation; creating a bicameral federal supreme legislative body of state power of the Russian Federation; defining more precisely the status of the president of the Russian Federation; expanding the independence of the federal government and clearly defining its accountability to the people and to the parliaments for the policies it pursues; defining more precisely the status of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation."

Ryabov points out that the Constitutional Court has already passed a ruling on this law; any amendments and addenda made by the Supreme Soviet will subsequently be submitted to Congress. The fourth point is rejected.

Ryabov continues: "The fifth point is linked with the fourth. The Constitutional Commission is to submit an agreed draft law of the Russian Federation on amendments and addenda to the Constitution—the Basic Law of the Russian Federation-Russia for consideration by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet; this is then to be submitted for consideration by the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation." This point is passed.

Ryabov continues: "The sixth point: To ratify the decisions of the Eighth Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation on setting up a mechanism for implementing the provisions of the Federation Treaty. This contains an instruction to set up an appropriate commission. This is all laid down in the draft laws on implementing the Federation Treaty, including in a document envisaging the establishment of a consultative conference—read here in parenthesis Council of the Federation—composed of representatives of the subjects of the Federation, in order to coordinate the activities of the bodies of state power of the subjects of the Federation with the federal bodies."

Ryabov adds that this point has been submitted for consideration by the Ninth Congress by request of subjects of the Federation. The sixth point is rejected.

Ryabov concludes: "The seventh point: To bring into force the present resolution from the moment—well, we probably do not need that, do we?" Ryabov then clarifies that the resolution will be voted upon without the second, fourth, and sixth points and without the preamble.

Congress Adopts Resolution

LD2903075793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0735 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The Russian Congress of People's Deputies has adopted a resolution "On Urgent Measures To Preserve the Constitutional System of the Russian Federation."

The voting for the resolution was preceded by a brief discussion of the document, stating the Russian president's violation of the constitution.

Summary of Congress Resolution

LD2903101093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 29 Mar 93

[by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—After a brief, but keen debate, the Congress of People's Deputies today adopted a decision "On urgent measures to save the constitutional system of the Russian Federation". The document says that the Congress shares the goals, outlined in President Yeltsin's address, aiming to safeguard the foundations of the Russian constitutional system, but believes that the ways and means, chosen to achieve these goals, contradict the constitution, provoke a "confrontation in the society and an aggravation of the political crisis".

The Congress has suspended the action of several presidential decrees, including the decree "On the work of executive bodies until the power crisis is overcome". The Constitutional Court is to pass a ruling on them. The Congress has abolished the institute of presidential appointees in the regions. The president and the prime minister are recommended to form a coalition cabinet—a government of national concord. All the bodies and institutions, formed under the presidency and discharging state administrative functions, have been transferred to the government's jurisdiction. The Congress has cancelled the Russian Federal Information Centre.

Dropped from the final document were items envisaging voluntary resignation of the president and parliament speaker, the creation of a two-chamber federal supreme legislative body, a clearer definition of the status of the president and of the Constitutional Court.

In the course of the debate, the Congress has turned down several amendments, substantially supplementing the decision. They included Vladimir Varukhin's amendment, moving to note in the decision that personal responsibility "for aggravating the confrontation between the authorities and for the political confrontation in the society is borne not only by Boris Yeltsin (as envisaged in the draft), but also by Ruslan Khasbulatov and Valeriy Zorkin.

Some deputies noted that several motions tabled by their colleagues obviously contradicted the constitution and the Russian laws. Sergey Krasavchenko expressed in ironical form his protest against all this. He moved to add one more sentence to the decision saying: "The constitution and the laws of Russia, as well as the provisions of the Congress's procedural rules are by no means binding on this Congress".

There were repeated calls to include in the decision a paragraph on the need for the president's voluntary resignation. Chairman of the Editorial Commission Nikolay Ryabov noted that this problem was settled during yesterday's vote of confidence in Boris Yeltsin.

Details of Vote Given

OW2903124693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1141 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Congress of People's Deputies on Monday [29 March] passed a resolution "On Urgent Measures to Preserve the Constitutional System of the Russian Federation." A total of 535 deputies voted in favor of it and 213 against it.

Clause One of the document, citing the Constitutional Court's decision, accuses President Boris Yeltsin of having committed "serious violations" of the Constitution in his March 20 appeal to the citizens of Russia. The president, the resolution says, bears "personal responsibility for the increasing confrontation between the branches of authority and between different sections of society."

The resolution instructs the Supreme Soviet to ask the Constitutional Court to check the legality of the president's decree of March 20 on the operation of the executive branch until the overcoming of the power crisis, his February 5 decree on the president's regional envoys, and his March 15 decree on reforming armed forces, border guard, and interior forces structures on the territory of the North Caucasus, and on state support for the Cossacks.

The document suspends the validity of the three decrees until the Constitutional Court gives its decision on them. At the same time, it instructs the government to "take measures to implement the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation on the rehabilitation of the Cossacks."

The resolution abolishes the practice whereby the president appoints his envoys to localities, accusing Yeltsin of having failed to "implement the relevant decisions of the Seventh and Eighth Congresses."

According to the resolution, the deputies strongly believe in the "immutability of the fundamental principles of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation, including the power of the people, respect for human rights, federalism, and the separation of powers as a basis

for interaction and accord between the legislative and executive branches of power." It commends the Constitutional Court for taking "timely" action to protect the constitutional system.

Clause Two orders the president and government to:

- form a coalition ("national accord") government;

- put under the government's authority all presidential bodies and services whose existence is not provided for by the Constitution and the Law on the President of the Russian Federation;

- abolish the Federal Information Center;

- dismiss from their posts all those who have "compromised themselves" by preparing the president's March 20 appeal and his decrees "contradicting the Constitution of the Russian Federation," persons who "by their activities destabilize the constitutional system and stir up public discontent."

Clause Three instructs the Constitutional Commission to introduce to the Supreme Soviet a finalized draft for a law "On making amendments to the Constitution," which subsequently is to be considered by a Congress of People's Deputies.

The resolution will come into force the moment it is published.

Resolution Curtails Yeltsin's Powers

LD2903142993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The 9th Congress of People's Deputies today adopted a resolution "On Urgent Measures To Safeguard the Constitutional System of the Russian Federation". The document notes that the ways and means, chosen by the president to observe the fundamental principles of the Russian constitutional system, do not comply with the constitution and lead "to confrontation in the society and to the aggravation of the political crisis".

By its resolution, the congress has, in fact, substantially curtailed President Yeltsin's rights and powers. It has suspended the action of several presidential decrees and has abolished the institute of the president's appointees in the regions. The president and the chairman of the Council of Ministers are recommended to form a coalition cabinet—a government of national concord. All the bodies and institutions, formed under the presidency and discharging state administrative functions shall be turned over to the government. The congress has abolished the Federal Information Centre of Russia. Articles envisaging the president's and parliament speaker's voluntary resignation, the creation of a two-chamber federative supreme legislative body of state power of the Russian Federation, a clearer definition of the status of the president and the status of the Constitutional Court, and the elaboration of bills on the implementation of the federal treaty, were deleted from the resolution.

Putting aside the agenda, the congress began the fourth day of its work with the discussion of the Sunday events around the Kremlin, where two demonstrations were held—in support of Boris Yeltsin and against him. Two deputies have accused the president of "instigation" and the law enforcement bodies of "conniving with the crowd" which, they claimed, had attacked MPs coming out of the Kremlin. One of them, Aleksandr Golishnikov, was hit on the head by a meeting participant. Khasbulatov claimed that "outright calls to rebellion" were heard during yesterday's meeting. The congress demanded explanations from the Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, who were summoned to the congress. They both assured the MPs that the Moscow authorities and the law enforcement bodies were doing all they could to ensure law and order in the capital. The mayor accused the participants of the anti- presidential meeting of violating the agreed upon route of their march. On Khasbulatov's motion, the congress is to adopt a special resolution on this matter at the end of its work.

The MPs have spent practically all their morning meeting adopting article by article a draft resolution "on the all-Russia referendum of April 25, 1993, the procedure for summing up its results, and the mechanism for implementing them". The congress had discussed less than a quarter of the amendments to the three-page document by break. They were able to approve only the preamble, saying that the referendum will be held "in order to overcome the political crisis in the Russian Federation."

The questions of the April 25 referendum will apparently be formulated in the following way: "Do you trust the president of the Russian Federation B.N. Yeltsin?", "do you approve of the socio-economic policy carried out by Yeltsin and the Russian Government since 1992?", "do you deem it necessary to hold pre-term presidential elections in 1993?", "do you deem it necessary to hold pre-term elections of people's deputies of the Russian Federation?". The congress is to approve these questions after the lunch break which, on Khasbulatov's motion, was shortened by one hour today, in order to be able to round off the 9th congress already this evening.

Fedotov Criticizes Congress Decision on Media

LD2903142093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1115 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The decision "On Measures To Ensure Freedom of Speech in State Television and Radio Broadcasting and in the News

Services", adopted this past Sunday by the ninth Congress of People's Deputies, in the view of Mikhail Fedotov, Russian minister of the press and information, "reflects the policy of establishing parliamentary control over the activity of television and radio broadcasting and could have very grave consequences both in an international and domestic political context".

The minister stressed in an exclusive interview today with the ITAR-TASS correspondent in the corridors of the Congress that deputies had crept toward this decision "from Congress to Congress, but each time had retreated, realizing that it was too dangerous a step to place a ban on television's freedom of activity." But this time, deputies had been unable to restrain themselves and, in the words of Mikhail Fedotov, they were urged into it by "the general wave of confrontation with the president."

Analysing the possible development of events, the minister said that above all, "this will result in a trial at the Constitutional Court." He said that "over 100 signatures have been collected to a petition to the Constitutional Court that has already been drawn up and which will, evidently, be handed in to the Constitutional Court's office today."

Mikhail Fedotov said that unfortunately the position of the Congress provoked a policy of diarchy on television under which "on the one hand yesterday's resolution of the Congress will function and on the other hand the president's decrees 'On protection of the freedom of mass media' and 'On guarantees of information stability and requirements for TV and Radio broadcasts' will operate." The minister explained that these two documents "are placing certain obligations on the state TV and Radio broadcasting services." He added, that in particular, minimum standards for TV and radio broadcasting have been set, according to which TV journalists would have to work. "But in order to prevent a situation in which they won't be able to choose which decrees or resolutions to follow, the president suggested—and I as his representative yesterday tried to defend this position at the Congress—that we should join these two documents, the president's decree 'On guarantees of information stability and requirements for TV and Radio broadcasts' and the resolution of the Congress, in order to avoid contradictions and confrontations and to find a mutually acceptable decision. Unfortunately the Congress rejected the president's proposals."

The minister said that the Congress "believes that it can do everything." To confirm this Mikhail Fedotov referred to "a satirical amendment" which Deputy Sergey Krasavchenko proposed during today's session. Krasavchenko proposed to include a point in the resolution of the Congress according to which "The Constitution of the Russian Federation, the laws of the Russian Federation, and the interim standing orders of the Congress of People's Deputies are not obligatory for the Congress of People's Deputies of Russia."

The minister continued: "Unfortunately, it is by the feeling that this amendment has already been adopted and has acquired a supreme legal force, that the ninth Congress is living. But this is very dangerous. The deputies have completely forgotten that there is Article 4 of the Constitution, of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, and according to this article all state bodies must observe legality. It may be changed, but it must not be violated." In yesterday's resolution, Mikhail Fedorov pointed out, there is such a wording: To bring the law on mass media in line with the current resolution.

"Well, he said, this decisions is rather feasible, but the resolution itself—and that part of it which contravenes the law—will then come into force only after the law itself has been changed. At the moment, however, everything has worked out to the contrary. The Congress is mistaken when it assumes that it can do anything. It can't even do a small thing, annul a marriage, for instance. Why is that? Just because this is prohibited by the law. The law stipulates who can annul a marriage—either a court or a registry office. It can't even fire a street cleaner. Why is that? Only because this is outside its jurisdiction."

The Congress, Mikhail Fedotov remarked, "can place any issue within its remit, so the deputies say. But it can only handle issues that are already within its remit. It cannot pronounce a sentence in law, it cannot send anyone to prison. Why? Because the Constitution and the laws get in the way. The state should be governed by laws, not the Congress. The Congress should work in compliance with the Constitution and laws."

The minister said that in his opinion dissolution by the Congress of the Federal Information Center does not in legal theory contravene the Constitution. "It [the Constitution] does have an Article 104, and in this Article 104 there is point 14, which says that the Congress is entitled to revoke decrees by the president. But it does not clarify on what grounds and in what circumstances. Moreover, you have to remember that there are also Articles 1 and 3, which enshrine the immutable fundamental tenets of the constitutional order, and among them the division of powers is mentioned. Consequently, the Congress cannot revoke presidential decrees on matters that are within his remit. And the creation of structures of presidential authority is, of course, solely within the remit of the president. In this sense, the Congress resolution in question also breaches the Constitution".

On the other hand, he added, "the Congress revoked only the decree on the Federal Information Center, but there are other decrees that define its legal status. These decrees have not been revoked, and therefore they remain in force."

Asked how the situation at the Congress and in the country may possibly develop, Mikhail Fedorov underscored that he fears the worst. "Nothing is more valuable than human lives," he said. "It is not our interests or our

ambitions, or our ministerial portfolios that we must constantly bear in mind, but the future of Russia and its people. Violence generates violence, lawlessness generates lawlessness. We must stop this wheel." The minister believes that the way to settle this conflict lies in an early election or in a referendum. "This is exactly what the president is proposing: To hold a referendum on confidence in the president and the Congress, on the new Constitution, and a new electoral law; we will be able to put new people into all power structures, to elect a president and to elect a parliament."

Mikhail Fedorov maintains that if elections take place at the same time, "there will be no grounds on which the people's political allegiances may diverge. If at that moment the people are on the side of democrats, it will mean that the majority of parliament members will be democrats, and a democratic president will be elected. If public opinion tilts in the other direction, it means, again, that there will be a unity of opinion between the branches of power. This is the most important thing, because otherwise a gulf would emerge and our people would fall into this gulf."

Radio, TV Company Assails Decision

LD2903165693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow, 29 March—The workforce of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company says in an address to viewers and listeners that it believes that freedom of speech on television and radio, guaranteed by the constitution, by the Law of the Russian Federation "On the Mass Media," and by Russia's international obligations, is under threat. This is the conclusion reached on the basis of the turn of events at the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation.

The address states that "the decision 'On Measures To Ensure Freedom of Speech in State Television and Radio Broadcasting,' adopted by the congress on 28 March, actually opens the way to unrestricted interference in the professional work of journalists and editorial offices not only by the bodies of power and officials, but also by parties and public organiztions in circumstances in which there is no law on political parties. The inevitable result of this will be the transformation of state television and radio into an arena for fierce political confrontation and pressure which, ultimately, will turn the mass media into a destabilizng factor in the life of society.

The document states that it is necessary to understand today that the mass media are the property of the nation as a whole and that alongside each of the branches of power they serve society, rather than the president, the Parliament, or the Constitutional Court.

Guided by the interests of viewers and listeners, as well as by the letter and spirit of the law "On mass media," journalists of the all-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company will continue to exercise their right to produce objective and truthful coverage of events in the country and around the world, as well to express their own journalistic point of view in accordance with the abovementioned Law. If we are prevented from fulfilling our professional duty, we reserve the right to take actions stipulated in the Law "On mass media" on the author's right to withhold material from being aired, the address states.

'Deep Concern' Noted

LD2903202693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Mar 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] There was a meeting of representatives of the workforce of our television and radio company today. We express deep concern and worry over the adoption by the Congress of People's Deputies of the resolution on measures to safeguard freedom of speech in state television and radio broadcasting. We sincerely hope that appropriate corrections will be made to this document in the very near future.

The resolution in its initial form seems to us to diverge very widely from our understanding of freedom of speech. If this resolution is brought into force, it could give grounds for unnecessary conflict. We hope that this will not happen.

Commentary Views Resolution

PM3003115793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 93 Single Edition p 1

[Andrey Sharapov commentary: "When Propaganda Supplants Information and Faith Replaces Reason"]

[Text] In the course of Sunday's denunciatory ferment about impeachment, the adoption by the Congress of the decree "On Measures To Ensure Freedom of Speech on State Television and Radio Broadcasting and in the News Services" was a secondary event. But it prompted an immediate reaction from our so-called news and undistinguished analytical programs. And, as usual, they did not particularly encumber viewers with the factual side of matters.

The decree deems it necessary to set up as representative organs of power supervisory councils to ensure freedom of speech on state television and radio broadcasting (not controlling television, as we were hastily told). It was laid down that executive organs cannot be the founders of state television and radio broadcasting companies and news services. A decision was passed abolishing the notorious Federal Information Center.

What lies behind this blitz against the abolition of the executive's propaganda monopoly? Why do civil servants suddenly strike our television journalists as nicer than a diverse and multifaceted supervisory council? Why is it considered democratic not to give airtime to the Constitutional Court chairman to prevent political

chaos, or for not a second of coverage to be given to a 90-minute press conference by the chairmen of the parliamentary chambers, and yet the creation of an organ to monitor the diversity of opinions on television is considered a smothering kind of censorship? Why, finally, has the propaganda chaos perpetrated by the Federal Information Center been shamefully hushed up, while attempts to balance political views are presented as an attack on free speech?

The reasons lie in the laws on political campaigning and in certain features of Russian journalism. Russian journalism still often prefers to work on the basis of the formula "impression plus faith" rather than the formula "fact plus reason." Many of our journalists, sincerely believing in the infallibility of the announced reforms, do not bother to distance themselves from this fashionable and professionally tedious cliche. And yet reality is changing faster than journalists' cliches.

During the debate on the decree at the Congress, Deputy Stepashin rightly noted that the zeal shown by television propaganda is already working against those whom it aims to defend. Some provisions of the decree may need legal amendment, some "fine-tuning" in practice, and even amendments from the Constitutional Court. But the replacement of the tough leadership of the civil service structure overseeing television and radio broadcasting with what will at any rate be milder and more diverse supervision by councils set up by the people's representatives is a step toward destroying the propaganda monopoly which is so familiar to us both in its methods and in the peremptoriness of its assessments of our recent past...

Shakhray on Including Early Elections on Referendum

LD2903124593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0839 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Speech by Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray to the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies in the Moscow Kremlin, introduced by Ruslan Khasbulatov, parliamentary chairman—live]

[Text] [Khasbulatov] Esteemed colleagues, we should, perhaps, hear the president's representative? We are, after all, looking at issues relating to the president's proposals. You have the floor, Sergey Mikhailovich.

[Shakhray] Esteemed chairman, esteemed people's deputies! I had planned to speak before the vote on the first point as a whole, but since the chairman has given me the floor, I am grateful to him. May I draw deputies' attention to the table which has been given to you all. There is at least one other question, or rather, at least two other questions for inclusion in the referendum. These should clearly be examined within the framework of the first point of the resolution. These are: The question of confidence in the Congress of People's Deputies and the question of the draft of a new Constitution. Evidently, if the Congress decided this by a straw poll, then those issues should have been put to the vote as well. I would also like to turn deputies' attention to the fact that, in accordance with the law on referendums, if a question gets one third of deputies' votes in a roll-call vote at the Congress, then that question has to be included in a referendum. The law adopted by the parliament of the Russian Federation stipulates that one third of votes is sufficient for a question to be included on a ballot paper for a referendum. So the question of early elections of deputies, if there is to be a second vote by roll-call, will obligatorily be included in the ballot paper for the referendum.

Defends Yeltsin's Choice of Date

LD2903124893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0924 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Statement by Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, the president's representative, at the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow—live]

[Text] I confirm the date of 25 April for the referendum. The resolution is worded in that way. Vasiliy Ivanovich Kazakov will confirm that a deletion has been made in the resolution where this point of the law is concerned. The editorial commission has already taken this into account. So there is no point in postponing the referendum.

I would like to say a few more words about this, Ruslan Imranovich.

[Khasbulatov] Go ahead, please.

[Shakhray] Unfortunately, Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov misled the deputies when he said that the president is proposing that the third question—preterm elections for the president—should be removed. On the contrary, in his appeal to the Congress he proposed a different scenario. The president said that if the Congress were to examine the questions and their possible consequences together, the questions on confidence in the president and confidence in the Congress would be sufficient on their own. A vote of no confidence in the president would automatically mean an early presidential election. A vote of no confidence in the Congress would automatically mean early elections for deputies. A vote of no confidence in both would automatically mean early general elections. All that could be included in the resolution. That is precisely what the president is proposing. But his proposal was not considered by the editorial commission. Therefore, I think it is incorrect to say that the president wanted to remove that point.

Furthermore, since the question was not put to the vote, I remind you that there are two more questions for the referendum—on the draft constitution and on confidence in the Congress. A preliminary vote on these should also have been held. Let me repeat—if the deputies had obtained a roll vote, one-third of the votes would have been enough to ensure that a given question was

included on the referendum voting slips. This is a mandatory procedure under the constitution.

[Khasbulatov] Excuse me for saying so, but you saw for yourself what passed at yesterday's talks with you—to be more precise, with the president rather than you, with the head of the government who actually put forward this idea. Who should put this resolution forward here? Only your humble servant dared to put these ideas forward—and they are not even his, if you don't mind my saying so. You remember your reactio . You are forcing me to say something I might regr . Sergey Mikhaylovich. Once again you are trying t tell us exactly the same thing. Come off it, Sergey Mikhaylovich!

[Ryabov, interrupting] Ruslan Imranovich...

[Khasbulatov, interrupting] You saw for yourself what happened yesterday during the vote on this question. Why are you confusing the president and the Constitution? The Congress is a component part of the Constitution. If that is what you want, let us have a question which reads: Do you oppose the Constitution?

Congress Decides Referendum Questions

OW2903113793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1126 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO] txt
[Text] The Russian Congress of People's Deputies on Monday [29 March], before breaking for a recess, almost succeeded in entirely considering the first point of a resolution on the April 25 referendum.

The deputies rejected one amendment which proposed postponing the referendum until June 12.

The deputies have decided that the following four questions will be asked in the referendum:

1. "Do you have confidence in the RF [Russian Federation] President?"

2. "Do you approve of the socioeconomic policy carried out by the RF president and government in 1992?"

3. "Do you think early presidential elections are necessary in 1993?"

4. "Do you think early deputies' elections are necessary in 1993?"

After the recess, which has been shortened to one hour, deputies will vote on the first point of the resolution on the referendum as a whole.

Deputies Oppose Including Election Issue

OW2903125693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Only 297 Russian people's deputies favored including on the referendum a question on early presidential elections in 1993, while 484 voted against, and 37 abstained in a straw vote at the Congress Monday. A proposal to include on the referendum a question on early elections of people's deputies in 1993 also failed to receive enough votes to pass. 441 deputies voted in favor, 352 opposed, and 37 abstained. 517 votes were needed to pass the decision.

In another straw vote, 806 deputies supported including a vote of confidence in Boris Yeltsin on the referendum, while 34 voted against and 7 abstained. 611 deputies voted in favor of including on the referendum the question: "Do you approve or disapprove of the social-economic policy the Russian Federation president and government have conducted since 1992?" 223 voted against including the question, and 10 abstained.

*** Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Nikolay Ryabov, who proposed the draft of the congressional resolution on the referendum, rejected a proposal from President Boris Yeltsin to evaluate the results of the national vote according to the system which was used during the presidential elections in 1991. Then, 50% of the votes of the citizens who voted were required for victory.

According to Ryabov, since the question of confidence in the president is a constitutional issue, in this case votes need to tallied based on the list of eligible voters, as stated in the Russian Federation law "On the Referendum." In order for the referendum to have judicial power, over 50% of the citizens from the list of eligible voters must give a positive answer to the question under vote. Otherwise, the referendum would be ineffective.

Further on Referendum Questions

LD2903153193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Yevgeniy Zherebenkov report from the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies in the Moscow Kremlin]

[Text] First and foremost, I would like to reassure all those who were alarmed by the termination of the live relay of today's business at the Congress. There's nothing to be worried about, believe me. The Congress itself decided on this move. The reason is as follows. Routine work which is of little interest to viewers and listeners is now being done. Amendments to one of the Congress's main resolutions—on the all-Russian referendum to be held on 25 April 1993 and the procedures for reviewing its results—are now being adopted.

Thus far the deputies have confirmed the date of the referendum and decided how many questions will be put to it. There will be four of them and there will be separate voting slips for each of them. The questions are as follows:

Do you have confidence in Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation?

Do you support the course of socio-economic reforms being pursued under the leadership of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation?

Do you consider that early presidential elections should be held?

Do you consider that early elections for Russian Federation people's deputies should be held in 1993?

The decisions on the last two questions will be based on a constitutional principle. In other words, they will only be valid if over half the citizens with the right to be included on voting lists vote for them. The deputies made an important amendment at this point in the resolution. They ruled out the possibility of including other questions, not endorsed by the Congress, on voting slips. They turned down proposals for referendum questions on private ownership of land and confidence in the Congress. By endorsing four questions for the referendum the Congress refused to go along with Boris Yeltsin's proposal that there should be only one referendum question, on confidence in the president, or at most two, on confidence in the president and confidence in the Congress.

Having completed work on this resolution, the Congress has basically dealt with all the questions on its agenda and is due to complete its work. But several additional questions may be included on the Congress agenda. That's all the news there is at the moment here at the Kremlin Palace.

Referendum Terms Unacceptable to Yeltsin

LD2903174093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Commenting on the questions formulated by the congress for the national referendum on power and constitution in the country, political scientist Andranik Migranian, who is a member of the Presidential Council, told journalists that the deputies' corps is doing everything to strip Boris Yeltsin of his presidential legitimacy.

"Deputies fear that after confirming his legitimacy, Boris Yeltsin will dissolve the congress," he said. This is why conditions are being set which cannot be met. Boris Yeltsin elected by 48 million voters in Russia must now score at least 50 million votes to confirm his powers. "I doubt that the president will agree to the rules of the referendum which the congress is seeking to impose on him. I think we are in for the next tug-of-war between the executive and the legislative branches of power," Migranian said.

People's Deputy Oleg Basilashviliy sounded much more somber in his judgement as he said that "almost all of the actions by the presidium and of 89 per cent of the deputies were "immoral".

"Their push can prevail for some time," he said. "But if it does not vanish, our society will vanish just as ancient Rome and Babylon vanished," he said.

President To Seek Constitutional Court Advice

LD2903184393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1803 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The Congress of Russian People's Deputies today adopted the resolution "on an all-Russian referendum of April 25, 1993, the procedure for summing up its outcome and the mechanism for implementing the referendum's results". Four issues will be put to the nation-wide vote under this resolution: On confidence in the president, on approving the socio-economic policy that has been pursued by the president and government since 1992, and on the expediency of holding early elections of a Russian president and people's deputies.

Most of the amendments to the draft resolution considered by deputies concerned Point 1 that frames the issues that are put to the vote. After discussions, the congress decided not to change the number of issues offered in the draft, changing only the wording of the second issue and striking off from the third and fourth issues the mention that early elections are held in 1993.

The final wording of the issues is as follows:

1. Do you trust President of the Russian Federation B.N. Yeltsin?

2. Do you approve the socio-economic policy that has been pursued by the president of the Russian Federation and Government of the Russian Federation since 1992?

3. Do you regard as necessary the holding of the early elections of president of the Russian Federation?

4. Do you regard as necessary the holding of the early elections of the people's deputies of the Russian Federation?

Heated debates broke out on Point 2 of the resolution that defines what majority of electors' votes will be enough to consider decisions on the referendum issues adopted. The draft by the Drafting Commission proposed to consider as enough over half of the eligible citizens' votes.

Amendments by the president like amendments by some deputies called for another number of votes - half of the participants in the ballot. Sergey Shakhray, representative of the Russian president, and the authors of amendments supported their viewpoint with the fact that the

draft's point breached the RSFSR Law on Referendum in the RSFSR. Shakhray warned that in case the wording by the Drafting Commission is adopted, the presidential side will apply to the Constitutional Court.

As a result of the debate, a somewhat compromise amendment by deputy Aleksey Golovnin was initially endorsed. According to it, half of the votes by all registered voters is decisive only for the third and fourth issues put to the referendum. These issues were singled out as answers to them "may change the content of the constitution's articles on the president's and Russian deputies' term of office."

However, before the vote on the entire resolution the congress, on the insistence of one of the deputies, returned to the consideration of this point and endorsed it in its initial edition.

The points of the resolution concerning the referendum holding procedure did not spark keen debates and were endorsed virtually without amendments. Among insignificant changes was the inclusion in Point 6 of the provision prohibiting the financing of "agitation concerning the referendum with citizens' personal funds."

Rutskoy Views Referendum

OW2903192093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, the referendum scheduled for April 25 should solve the problem of the confrontation of powers.

"The referendum should give the final answer where and to what aim out people are going. We shall go either along the course of reforms or shall move backwards," Rutskoy said on Monday [29 March] evening in his interview with Interfax.

In the opinion of Vice-President, the extraordinary Congress which completed its work on March 29 "has become a kind of a mirror reflecting polarization in the society. It is high time to stop hanging political labels and testing the people's tolerance and to think over what is the end of this," Rutskoy underlined.

Civic Union Leader Comments

OW2903173093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One of the leaders of Civic Union, Nikolay Travkin, believes that currently Russia is living in the regime of a dyarchy. In his interview with Interfax on Monday [29 March] in the lobby of the Congress, he said that there cannot be a compromise between two branches of power. A referendum is the only way out, Travkin believes. It is important that the wording and number of issues suit the executive and legislative powers. Such a referendum can be conducted by a civilized method through election commissions. Otherwise we shall have two parallel referendums which could cause the collapse of Russia, Travkin said.

Being interview by Interfax, chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Council of nationalities Ramazan Abdulatipov expressed the same point of view. "This is a very dangerous tendency when senior officials ignore country's laws," he pointed out. In response to a question whether a referendum would solve the problem of dyarchy, Abdulatipov said that he is not quite sure because there is a possibility to hold two referendums. "Our leaders do not take into account either the Constitution or laws," he said. "They can gather 10,000-15,000 supporters and declare that this meeting determines their status and everything else is of no importance. This is very dangerous."

One of the leaders of the parliamentary coalition of reforms, Gleb Yakunin, believes that the situation should not be dramatized due to a possibility of two simultaneous referendums. "There may actually be two referendums, one held by local councils and the other - by the presidential team, but there will be no collapse," he said. "The more referendums we hold the better, - Yakunin believes. - We shall have more opportunities to learn opinion of the people." [quotation marks as received]

Deputies Propose Amendment to Constitution

LD2903090393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—People's Deputies Yuriy Sidorenko and Mikhail Chelnokov tabled a written motion at the 9th Congress of People's Deputies here today to amend Article 92-3 of the Russian Constitution. The purpose of the amendment is to narrow down the list of people permitted to combine the status of MP with jobs within the executive branch of government. If approved, the amendment will strip of MP status everybody holding jobs in the administration of the president, in other presidential and government structures, the Russian ambassadors, the heads of TV and radio companies, the heads of administration and their assistants.

ITAR-TASS was told at the congress secretariat that it was within the competence of the congress to decide whether to discuss the amendment or not.

Moscow Mayor Luzhkov Addresses Congress

LD2903100893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov assured the Congress of People's Deputies on Monday [29 March] that city authorities have "fulfilled their task to separate (crowds of demonstrators) and prevent clashes" between the participants in pro- Yeltsin and pro-communist rallies in Moscow on Sunday.

Luzhkov was summoned to the congress by Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov after one of the deputies, Aleksandr Galishnikov, said he had been injured in the head by Yeltsin supporters.

However Luzhkov described the pro-Yeltsin supporters as "disciplined, normal, well-mannered and intelligent" people. At the same time, he noted that "when people are provoked, they can take actions going beyond the normal and permissible." He expressed regret for Galishnikov, adding that he "should not have gone to the crowd and should not have provoked it."

The mayor said the deputy received "a wound two centimeter in diameter" and was taken to the emergency care clinic which he left 30 minutes later. Luzhkov denied reports that there were many drunk people among pro-Yeltsin supporters who rallied outside the Kremlin. "This is a brazen lie," Luzhkov said.

Both sides resumed their rallies on Monday as the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies began its fourth day of discussions in an attempt to resolve the constitutional crisis in the country.

Legislators Discuss 28 Mar Vote of Confidence

LD2903101793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The results of Sunday's [28 March] vote on the ouster of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and removal of Ruslan Khasbulatov from the post of chairman of the Russian Parliament have not come as a surprise to the majority of lawmakers interviewed by ITAR-TASS in the lobbies of the congress.

Anton Fedorov from the city of Samara, a representative of the left-wing Centre faction, said that these results cannot be regarded as Yeltsin's and Khasbulatov's victory or defeat.

At the same time Fedorov said that Boris Yeltsin had come only 72 votes short of being impeached, which speaks for itself. He believes that the results of the vote encourage the worst qualities of the Russian parliamentary speaker.

"The participation of as many as 924 people's deputies in the vote, witnessed at no other congress before, shows that the opposition was well prepared for the congress, while putting two items on the ballot paper worked against Yeltsin," Fedorov said.

People's deputy from Tymen, Anatoliy Sivak, belonging to no faction, said that "what has occurred at the voting was bound to take place." In his opinion, in order to stabilise public opinion and the political situation in general, the president should remain in his post.

At the same time, the results of the vote for Yeltsin's impeachment and Khasbulatov's ouster reflected the feelings of numerous factions, which could be summed up in the formula "to give a scare to both".

Galim Akhmedzyanov from Krasnoyarsk region, representing the Coalition of Reforms Faction, had expected none of the candidates put on ballot papers for ouster to "collect" sufficient number of votes. As for results of the vote, Akhmedzyanov believes they point out to the growing confrontation between the executive and legislative branches of power. "Sunday's events at the congress and rallies have put society on the verge of collapse," Akhmedzyanov said.

Kostikov Says Congress 'Vindictive Communist Inquisition'

LD2903104893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Olga Vasilenko report from the Kremlin including interview with Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary; concluding remarks by program announcer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I now want to speak about something else. We usually get to know about statements by Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, from the news agencies, but now Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Kostikov is working here in the Great Kremlin Palace and so of course we have the opportunity to hear these statements from him directly and not through the news agencies. He has come to us at the correspondents' point and so it is our pleasure to offer him the microphone. Please, Vyacheslav Vasilyevich, what about the statement and generally why have you come to us?

[Kostikov] Dear listeners, dear friends, dear Russians. First of all allow me to explain why Boris Nikolayevich has not been at the Congress this morning. Many deputies and journalists have been asking about this. I want to say that today, according to Orthodox Russian tradition, nine days after the death of his mother, this morning Boris Nikolayevich and his family went to the cemetery to fulfill his filial duty. Therefore, if you have just a brief minute, I ask you, dear listeners, also to bow your head or observe a moment of silence in memory of that good, hard-working, truly Russian woman.

Now I should like to say a few words about politics. You know that yesterday's disgraceful intentions to deprive the popularly elected president of his power met with defeat. However, the Congress of People's Deputies has failed to learn any lessons from this, and unfortunately has this morning continued to expand the sphere of its

anticonstitutional actions. The Congress is fully ignoring public opinion and the will of the people, and this will has now been expressed, and was expressed yesterday and during all the preceding days, in an enormous wave of support by all the people for the legally elected president and in mass protests against the destructive activity of the Congress.

Unfortunately, with the connivance of the Constitutional Court, the Congress is continuing to destroy the country's constitutional space already weakened by the decisions taken previously by the Congress and the Supreme Soviet. It is deliberately and with ill intention pushing the president and you, Russians, toward acts of civil protest. Abusing [zloupotreblyaya] the will of the president to seek a compromise, the Congress is provoking Russians to civil confrontation. In fact the Congress has turned itself into an infernal machine for the destruction of civil peace and political stability in Russia. It has violated, and continues to violate by its amendments and resolutions, by all conceivable and inconceivable measures, the limits of political decency and simply of human morality. It constantly insults the president, ministers, the government, and you Russians.

The Congress has declared today that those people who yesterday in hundreds of thousands gathered at the meeting in Vasilyevskiy Spusk, that they were a gang of drug addicts. I have never heard anything so disgraceful from the Congress.

[Vasilenko] Were you there yourself?

[Kostikov] I was there myself, and I saw those people. They were real democrats, they were real Russian patriots, they were the pure Russian faces of Russians. There were very many young people there. It was a peaceful, politically organized meeting of support. Unfortunately, by its anti-constitutional actions, endless violations of the rules and contradictions within itself, the Congress has placed itself above and in fact outside the law. It has exceeded the limits of democratic and Russian civilization. The Congress has turned itself into a vindictive communist inquisition that is is prepared, in the name of restoring its totalitarian domination, to burn around itself everything connected with democracy, freedoms, glasnost, human rights and the dignity of the Russian people and Russians. Having embarked on the dangerous path of endless violations of the Constitution and the law, the Congress and its overt [yavnoye] and covert [taynoye] leadership will bear the whole responsibility for their provocative activity and for the destruction of civil peace in Russia. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] I should like to add a few words of my own. In confirmation of the words of Vyacheslav Vasilyevich Kostikov, I spent the whole day yesterday at Vasilyevskiy Spusk, and if I am thought to be a drug addict, then I simply don't understand how I could be working at the Mayak microphone.

Accuses Congress of Upsetting Peace

OW2903121993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Congress, which has suffered a defeat in its disgraceful move to take power away from the popularly elected president by resorting to spurious unconstitutional procedures, has not drawn any conclusions from its political fiasco and continues to extend the sphere of its unconstitutional activities, reads the statement which was circulated this Monday [29 March] morning by the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov.

Mr Kostikov emphasizes that the "Congress is intentionally prodding the president and the Russian population to resort to a citizens' protest..., provoking confrontations in society." Mr Kostikov asserts that "the Congress has transmuted into an infernal machine designed for upsetting civic peace and political stability in Russia."

The Congress is indulging in incessant attacks at the president, the ministers, the government and the Russian people, the statement says, and together with its leaders it have to bear direct responsibility for upsetting civic peace in Russia.

"By its ongoing unconstitutional activities and endless violations of its own proceedings, the Congress has outlawed itself, nor does it any longer stay in the framework of the rules of democracy and Russia's civility. The Congress has transmuted into an avengeful communist inquisition board which is ready to burn down everything around it which has to do with democracy...," the document reads. For complete text of Mr Kostikov's statement, please refer to Interfax' Presidential Bulletin of March 29.

Statement Given to Prosecutor

LD2903121793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The Congress of Russian People's Deputies reacted quickly to the thundering statement of Vyacheslav Kostikov, the spokesman of the Russian president, who blasted the supreme legislture on Monday calling it an "infernal machine".

Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov said the statement was forwarded to the prosecutor's office.

Legislators have also prepared a resolution which qualifies the statement as a call for a coup d'etat and asks the president to sack Kostikov.

Lawmaker Valentina Linkova told the Congress that she is ashamed of such statements although she is a staunch supporter of the president.

Yerin on Galishnikov Incident, Public Order

LD2903122093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0851 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Speech by Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Fedorovich Yerin at the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies in the Kremlin, Moscow—live]

[Text] Esteemed Congress, in the past week there has been a sharp increase in the number of rallies held in the Russian Federation. More than 160 rallies, pickets, and marches of various kinds have been held. That is several times more than in the same period of the previous week. The toughest confrontations have been in Moscow, and they reached their apogee yesterday. In accordance with the procedure laid down by law, a number of different political movements have notified the mayor's office of the city of Moscow of the holding of their marches, demonstrations, and rallies. Yuriy Mikhaylovich Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow, will, I think, be telling you about that in greater detail.

The internal affairs bodies have been making all the necessary efforts to ensure that these confrontations do not develop into mass clashes and disturbances with grave consequences. Active work has been done both with the organizers of these rallies, and work to maintain law and order. We have been forced, in addition to the several thousand militiamen who have gone into action in tackling the task of protecting law and order, to recruit cadets from the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] colleges, and bring forward the necessary reserves of the minister of internal affairs. We have prepared the special means [sredstva] which in accordance with the law can be used in the event of an outbreak of mass disturbances.

By the efforts we have undertaken, we have succeeded in preventing clashes between these two opposing movements: on the one hand, of the rally held on Vasilyevskiy Slope, in which an estimated crowd of up to 100,000 took part, and, Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, may I continue?

[Khasbulatov] Please do.

[Yerin] And of the rally held by Trudovaya Rossiya, Trudovaya Moskva, and the so-called Natonal Salvation Front outside the White House. They then attempted to move in the direction of Vasilyevskiy Slope. You may imagine the consequences if that had been allowed to happen.

Regarding the actual incident that occurred last night, I'd first like to tell you that because of the tense situation and the presence of a large number of people on Vasilyevskiy Slope, officers of the internal affairs bodies, with additional forces drawn from the public, were allocated by the mayor's office specifically to protect public order. A corridor was organized, not along Vasilyevskiy Slope, to the right, where the usual exit is, but straight ahead, directly from the Spasskiye Vorota [Gates]. Explanations were given to individual deputies who were coming out, concerning the fact that [Khasbulatov appeals for quiet in the hall] in view of the large number of people on Vasilyevskiy Slope, they were recommended to proceed through the security corridor specially set up yesterday. In addition, on the territory of the Kremlin a sufficient number of buses was provided, on which the deputies could be taken out directly to the Hotel Moskva, rather Rossiya.

As for the incident involving Deputy Galishnikov, the first report to reach the militia at the Hotel Rossiya was that one of the people's deputies of Russia had been brutally beaten up and stabbed in the crowd on Vasilyevskiy Spusk, and that he had been taken in a GAI [traffic police] vehicle to the Sklifosovskiy Institute. That was the first report. A preminary inquiry showed that People's Deputy Aleksanr Mikhaylovich Galishnikov had indeed been attacked by a citizen who struck him on the head—with a satchel, according to the original information—at the moment when he was walking right up to the crowd and discussing with them the question of how he'd voted, what he'd voted for, and so forth. After that, the militia... [changes thought] he was taken to an ambulance, in which he was taken to the Sklifosofkiy Institute. The neurosurgeon Aminov, who examined him, diagnosed suspected concussion and an abrasive wound in the area of the left temple. The people's deputy declined hospital treatment and asked to be allowed to return to the Hotel Rossiya. The militiamen repeatedly asked the people's deputy to give the necessary explanations and testimony concerning the incident. Criminal proceedings were immediately instituted under part one of Article 260 of the criminal code of the Russian Federation, but until we have an official statement from the people's deputy, the investigation is continuing. The Procuracy is able to carry out procuratorial supervision of the inquiry, as prescribed, and I think when we have the results we'll be able to give the deputies more detailed information.

Furthermore, I must tell you that reports alleging that the protection of public order has been abandoned are untrue. Right through to the morning, round-the-clock patrols have been on duty in the vicinity of Red Square, Vasilyevskiy Slope, and the Rossiya Hotel. I must tell you—believe me—that the officers of the internal affairs bodies, the officers of the militia and the servicemen of the internal troops have a pretty hard task, in these difficult circumstances, in keeping public order. They are working, I repeat, round-the-clock; they are enormously overworked in the rather difficult conditions of heightened confrontation between various political movements, but as laid down by the law, they are doing their duty and I'm sure they will continue to do so. That is all I have to say.

Reports Increase in Rallies Across Russia

LD2903114993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1106 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—160 rallies, demonstrations and pickets were held across Russia over the last week, according to Interior Minister Viktor Yerin who told the Russian Congress of People's Deputies on Monday that "rallying activity sharply increased". He did not disclose who the demonstrators were supporting.

Supporters and opponents of President Boris Yeltsin were most active in Moscow. Police are doing everything to keep "the contrapposition from developing into mass clashes and disorders with grave consequences", Yerin said.

The minister also said that criminal proceedings have been instituted in connection with the attack on lawmaker Aleksandr Golishnikov who had received a head injury from Yeltsin's supporters on Sunday.

Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov told lawmakers that presidential opponents wanted to "stage a mighty conflict" with Yeltsin's supporters rallying at the Kremlin wall, but police succeeded to avert the clash. He added that the opponents directly called for violence. "Rallies, a normal democratic form of expressing peoples will, turn into a vulgar and insulting actions", the mayor warned.

Luzhkov assured the congress that Moscow police and security bodies are doing everything necessary to protect lawmakers and ensure order in the city.

Rutskoy Condemns Leaders' Participation in Rallies

LD2903132093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Interviewed by a RIA correspondent, Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy condemned leaders of various levels for taking part in rallies. He also stated that the course of reforms must be reconsidered, underlining that economic planning and regulation should be directed by the state. The vice president believes that the country's political crisis has been generated by a bad economic situation. Aleksandr Rutskoy favored the transfer to socially orientated market relations. In his view, the current state of affairs in the economy must be reassessed: Before making any decisions, equal starting conditions must be created for working people.

Congress Wants Officials To Testify on 28 March Events

OW2903121293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Monday [29 March] morning session of the Congress of People's Deputies began with accusations by some of the deputies that Yeltsin's supporters demonstrating outside of the Kremlin were insulting a group of lawmakers. One of the deputies came to the podium with what looked like a bandage on his head, claiming he was beaten by Yeltsin's supporters Sunday night.

Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov proposed that the Congress initiate an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident, noting that there were "direct calls for insurrection at the square near the Kremlin walls."

If Yeltsin goes on with his calls for an uprising, the Congress will have to re-address the issue of his impeachment, the speaker warned.

Ruslan Khasbulatov demanded that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov report to the Congress and provide their explanations of the incident. The speaker was also highly critical of Russia's security minister, saying neither he nor the interior minister took adequate measures to insure the safety of the people's deputies.

Russia's General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov explained that Moscow's Mayor permitted Sunday's rally to last until 4 p.m. only. Therefore, he said, responsibility for its outcome should be borne by the interior ministry officials in charge of order on the territory of the Kremlin, Mr Stepankov said.

Prosecutor Asked To Probe Events Near Kremlin

OW2903141993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1406 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The drafting commission of the 9th Congress of People's Deputies has prepared a draft resolution which orders the Russian Prosecutor General to make a minute investigation of violations of law and order during the demonstration at Vasiliyevsky Spusk near the Kremlin on March 28.

During the demonstration, one of the deputies, Aleksandr Golishnikov, received a concussion.

The draft resolution declares that when holding the demonstration, "there is factual evidence of the violation of law and order," evident in the attack of the demonstrators on deputies and calls to dissolve the congress.

The congress has also proposed to point out to the president the inadmissibility of unconstitutional appeals by officials of state organs taking part in the demonstration.

According to the draft, the parliament should immediately send the Constitutional Court a petition for the court to rule on the constitutionality of activities by officials who took part in organizing and holding the demonstration and to create an investigative commission "to investigate unconstitutional activity, misuse of official powers and the corruption of officials."

Congress Rules Law, Order Violated

LD2903151993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1455 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The Congress of People's Deputies today adopted without any discussion the resolution "on the violation of law and public order during the holding of rallies in Moscow when the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies was in session".

The resolution points out that "law and order were violated" when rallies were held on March 28, 1993", which "was expressed, in part, in calls for dissolving the Congress of People's Deputies, overthrowing the president of the Russian Federation, the government of the Russian Federation, in violence against Russian people's deputies and also in other unlawful actions."

Strongly denouncing such acts, which undermine the pillars of legality in the country, the Congress of People's Deputies decreed "to turn the attention of the Russian president and government to the inadmissibility of anti-constitutional calls by officials of supreme state bodies during their public speeches and to take the necessary measures against them."

The congress asked the Supreme Soviet to send immediately an application to the Constitutional Court to give a conclusion on whether officials of Russian state bodies, who took part in organising and holding the rally near the Kremlin, acted in line with the constitution.

The Russian prosecutor-general is charged with "carrying out within the shortest possible terms a thorough investigation into the circumstances associated with the aforementioned violations of law and order."

The resolution also points out that "in view of the increased cases of the violation of legality by officials and corruption reaching the state apparatus," the Supreme Soviet is entrusted with "forming an investigation commission and vesting it, under the established rules, with the necessary powers."

Police Department Issues Statement on Events

OW2903122593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As Interfax learned from the press center of Moscow's police department, none of the people's deputies filed complaints about having been attacked by participants in the demonstration held by democratic forces near St. Basil's Cathedral outside the Kremlin on Sunday [28 March]. Nevertheless the department has been informed that a deputy, Aleksandr Galishnikov, was delivered to the Sklifosovsky emergency aid hospital. The diagnosis was "concussion and a bruise on the left side of his head". The patient filed no complaint to the police, and avoided interviews with law-enforcement officers. At the moment this information is being verified.

According to the press center, no abuses of public order were registered in Moscow during Sunday's rallies and demonstrations. Only one man (from Moscow Region) was detained by the police for tearing posters and abusing those who had gathered for a rally of left-wing forces outside the parliament building. He'll have to pay a 500-ruble fine.

Rival Groups Demonstrate Outside Congress 29 Mar

LD2903125593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] This morning pickets were drawn up in the vicinity of Vasilyevskiy Slope by those who support the democrats on the one side, and supporters of the communist and patriotic forces on the other. They met people's deputies who were on their way to the latest session of the Congress. Our correspondent at the Kremlin, Sergey Medvedev, went down to the site of the pickets during the Congress interval. So what is happening there?

[Medvedev] Well, just a few minutes ago I went back to the Kremlin. The people's deputies, evidently having learned from yesterday's sad experience of Deputy Galishnikov, who was beaten up near the Kremlin, have decided to make use of the many cars collected in Ivanovskaya Square in the Kremlin, and take the cars to lunch and to the Rossiya Hotel. They can also go along the special path which is fenced off with these metal barriers, avoiding the crowd at the rallies. But that doesn't seem to have been so necessary today, because there are hardly any demonstrators: perhaps about 300 on one side and about 300-400 on the other—although the president's opponents are more active today.

Well, it may be due to the snow and hail in the streets, rather bad weather: The demonstrators, as you can see, are very few.

Official Says Most Kuzbass Miners Will Support Yeltsin

LD2903133793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report by correspondent Nikolay Ivanov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Yesterday's claim at the patriots' rally in Moscow that the Kuzbass does not unequivocally support the president is, to put it mildly, incorrect. Various political forces with various degrees of popular support are today assembling their adherents. Both a Committee in Defense of the Constitution and a Support the President

Fund are at work. The president's supporters are organizing mobile agitation groups at factories. Many inhabitants of Kemerovo have offered to turn their apartments into agitation centers.

The Fund will be holding a rally in the next few days. A member of the Committee in Defense of the Constitution, Leonid Syrgachev, told us he fears the president's supporters may stop holding rallies and start striking. He admits, however, that about 60 percent of the miners believe in Yeltsin's policy at present.

At the same time, the position of the independent trade union of Kuzbass miners was stated by its chairman, (?Shayipov). He expected that most of his members—some 20,000 miners—will support the president rather than the congress. The union is today trying to avert a strike, because its representatives are finding common ground with the government and the miners blame the Supreme Soviet for the problems that remain unresolved.

The feeling here is that a strike in these circumstances would be directed against the government and, therefore, would be against the interests of the miners.

Reform Coalition Deputies Walk Out of Congress

LD2903154893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By correspondent Sergey Medvedev from the Kremlin, with recorded remarks by Deputy Kovalev, introductory question by announcer; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] At the outset of the evening session, Ruslan Khasbulatov hinted that some deputies want to raise a scandal. Do you know what he meant?

[Medvedev] This became clear right after he made this statement. The question was a group of deputies representing the coalition of reform. They attempted to speak and approached the microphone, but were denied the floor. Then they left the hall, approached journalists, and made a statement. There are 42 people in this group. Their statement is signed by deputies Yushenkov, Denisenko, Ponomarev, and Zadonskiy. Deputy Kovalev explains to journalists the essence of this statement.

[Kovalev] We cannot and do not want to cooperate in this desecration of democratic principles. We are present at the Congress only as witnesses. From this minute, we will not vote on any issue, except for the amendment to include the confidence of the Congress in the referendum questions, if such an amendment is to be discussed.

[Medvedev] By the way, the statement of this group of which Ostankino Chairman [Vyacheslav] Bragin also is a part had no effect on the results and the outcome of the vote. [passage omitted]

Refuse To Participate

OW2903141593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1406 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Forty two deputies belonging to a reform coalition have announced their refusal to participate in further votes at the congress, except on the amendment to introduce the question at the referendum of confidence in the congress, if it is discussed.

The group's decision was motivated by their lack of desire to "participate in the mockery of democratic principles." The statement emphasizes that the 9th Congress was convened by the leadership of the Russian Supreme Soviet with one goal—to overthrow the lawfully elected President and democratic law and order won in August 1991." "The letter and spirit of the law are being violated." At the same time, the majority of the congress is masking its unconstitutional activity with pseudo-democratic phraseology, the deputy's statement declares.

Several Deputies Will Stay 'as Witnesses'

LD2903153593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Members of the parliamentary reform coalition, uniting the "Democratic Russia" and "Radical Democrats" factions, have announced this afternoon that as of today they will be attending the congress "only as witnesses" and will not vote on any issue.

Sergey Kovalyov read out this statement to journalists on behalf of 42 deputies:

"The 9th congress was called by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet leadership with the purpose of overthrowing the legally elected president and to destroy the democratic law and order achieved by him in August 1991. Having failed to achieve this aim directly through a secret ballot, the extraordinary congress has been continuing its destructive work and violating the letter and spirit of the law."

"We cannot and do not wish to take part in the mockery of democratic principles," the statement signed by 42 deputies said. "We are present at the congress only as witnesses. As of this very moment we will no more vote on any issue, with the exception of the referendum on a vote of confidence in the congress, provided it is discussed," they said.

Sergey Kovalyov expressed confidence that this stand is shared by a majority of deputies, but Ruslan Khasbulatov, who is chairing the congress, intentionally did not

give them an opportunity to make public this statement, and they could not join forces with the signatories to this document.

The statement was made public after 16:00 hours Moscow time, when the congress had been discussing amendments to the resolution concerning the April referendum.

Vice President Rutskoy Comments on Congress Proceedings

OW2903140493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking to journalists in the corridors of the people's deputies' forum, Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy raised objections to any "flagrant invectives" with respect to the Congress and accusations of the Congress of being an "assemblage of the Party nomenclatura." He reminded that this very Congress once conceded to extend the president's powers.

Commenting on the meetings in Moscow on March 28, the vice president denounced as "unacceptable" participation in them of any "leaders of such high standing."

"There presence electrifies the people," he stressed, noting that he was especially concerned that such meetings are frequently attended by armed people. In the words of the vice president, "the consequences of such developments are ultimately unpredictable." Rutskoy opined that the political crisis in Russia was triggered by the economic crisis. Therefore, it would be desirable to change the reform course, he said, noting that its mere corrections would not be enough. He said all the working people need to be given equal starting opportunities. This, in the words of the Russian vice president, will provide conditions for our transition to the market relations.

In order to effect a transition to the market economy, he said, "we need, at least, an elementary control and planning system which we do not have until now."

Rutskoy observed that the country does not have any taxation system or financial supervision to rely on. In 1992, "our economists were struggling with the budget deficit," while the sums "stolen" from the budget were three times as great as the sum defined as the budget deficit.

Yeltsin Petitions Zorkin on Constitutionality Issue

LD2903154193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1357 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow, 29 March (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the president of the Russian Federation today issued the text of a letter "On verification of the constitutionality of acts of the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation," sent by Boris Yeltsin to Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Russian federation. The text reads as folows:

The president of the Russian Federation petitions the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, in accordance with Part 1 of Article 165 (1) of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, to accept for processing and decision the case of the constitutionality of the examination by the Ninth (extraordinary) Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies on the question of dismissing the president of the Russian Federation from his post.

The ground for this application, in accordance with article 74 of the law "On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation," is the uncertainty over the issue of whether the acts of the Ninth (extraordinary) Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation are in accord with the constitution of the Russian Federation, in particular with point 13 of part 3 of article 104, and articles 121 (10) and 165 (1) of the constitution of the Russian Federation.

The Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation accepted the question of dismissing the president of the Russian Federation for examination without having applied to the Constitutional Court, in accordance with part 3 of article 165 (1) of the constitution of the Russian Federation and article 74 of the law "On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation," for a ruling on whether the acts and decisions of the president—the unconstitutionality of which the Congress of People's Deputies was to examine as grounds for a decision on the issue of dismissing the president of the Russian Federation—conformed with the constitution of the Russian Federation.

The congress did not implement the procedure and mechanism for establishing the responsibility of the president of the Russian Federation envisaged by article 121 (10) of the constitution of the Russian Federation.

Contrary to part 2 of article 115 and article 121 (10) of the constitution of the Russian Federation, the Congress of People's Deputies linked the question of dismissing the president of the Russian Federation to that of the recall of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

By examining the question of dismissing the president of the Russian Federation without previously having, by a decision of the congress, sought an appropriate ruling from the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation, the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation, which has a duty to observe the constitution and laws of the Russian Federation, thereby violated article 4 of the constitution of the Russian Federation and a number of norms of the law "On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation."

The petition of the president of the Russian Federation for verification of the constitutionality of the acts of the Ninth (extraordinary) Congress of People's Deputies of

the Russian Federation, and the necessary appendices, will be presented to the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.

Khasbulatov's Spokesman Critical of Kostikov Statement

OW2903144893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The statement by the Russian president's spokesman from March 29 which criticizes the Congress of People's Deputies is reminiscent of the APN agency's commentary fifteen years ago, in which they trashed American imperialism." This statement was made by Konstantin Zlobin, spokesman for the head of Russian parliament, in reference to his counterpart, Vyacheslav Kostikov's, comments on the congress. In an Interfax interview Zlobin explained that his evaluation was in reference both to the sense and the vocabulary of Kostikov's statement. Zlobin expressed regret that Kostikov, "who writes books and probably is a member of the Writers' Union, would lower himself to such a genre."

Deputy Calls Kozyrev 'Traitor-Minister'

OW2903143393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report prepared by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee on international affairs and foreign economic relations, Iona Andronov, has said that the head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, pursues "a treacherous policy" by subordinating Russian interests to those of the USA. He announced this at the 9th congress of people's deputies, and in an interview with Interfax's correspondent.

According to him, almost as soon as the 8th congress was over, Kozyrev had a telephone conversation with the American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, and the same day official Washington voiced support for President Boris Yeltsin. "The Russian Foreign Ministry," Andronov said, "failed to react to the circumstance that the USA proclaimed our parliament undemocratic. In fact that was an insult, but neither a note of protest nor other such thing followed. This ought to be considered and made conclusions from." In Andronov's view, the Clinton Administration "must be thanked for the fact that neither mass arrests nor bloodshed have taken place in Moscow," because a spokesman for the White House said that such developments would be undesirable.

According to the legislator, "all the records of telephone conversations between Kozyrev and Christopher should be made public." He added that, "as an intelligent man," the head of Russian diplomacy "is given to destroying compromising documents." Besides, Andronov declared: "In civilized countries foreign ministers never get involved in the internal power struggle, never carry it out of their own countries, never invite foreign leaders to side with some of their countrymen against others. Such a man would lose his post forever. But in this country everything is possible. If the president doesn't rid us of this traitor-minister, I'll vote for his impeachment."

Deputies Refute Criticism of Kozyrev

OW2903144493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report prepared by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the parliamentary committee on international affairs and foreign economic relations, Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, has dismissed Iona Andronov's charges that Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev "betrayed" his country's national interests.

His deputy Andronov, Ambartsumov told Interfax during an interval in the congress session, "allowed himself many misstatements and ignored positive aspects in the work of Russia's Foreign Ministry." "Now the Foreign Ministry coordinates its concrete actions with the parliament much more often and with much greater energy than it did previously," he said.

However, said Ambartsumov, there are shortcomings in the work of the Foreign Ministry, such as pro-Americanism, when we duplicate some American approaches." [quotation marks as received] According to him, "Moscow should take a more independent stand."

Nevertheless Ambartsumov believes that "confrontational approaches and the atmosphere of squabble" are inadmissible. According to him, our problems should be resolved by practical work.

People's Deputy Vladimir Lukin, who is Russia's Ambassador to the USA, has qualified Andronov's statement at the congress on Friday as "a provocation." "When a man, failing to analyse problems, begins to search for traitors, criminals and guilty persons to be put before a firing squad, this means a relapse into the worst times of Stalinism," Lukin declared.

He himself, he added, has published many articles on foreign policy issues, in which he noted that sometimes he could not endorse one or another step taken by the foreign minister by 100

.

According to Lukin, Andronov attacked Kozyrev at a time, when "cabinet ministers' positions had weakened

due to a number of problems which I discussed, and which I am prepared to discuss openly."

"We must enter the civilized society with the realization that it comprises very egoistic countries pursuing their own national interests. We must not resemble rural simpletons who believe that everyone is ready to embrace them and share everything with them. Diplomacy should be tough in pursuing the national interests of its country. But at the same time it should realize that other countries also have national interests of their own. This is the only way to gain respect," Lukin said.

In the past the Foreign Ministry had certain shortcomings in this area, but later it made "corrections." "Disputes could be held in this connection, of course, but they must concern real problems, not serve as a search for traitors," he pointed out.

Deputies Urge Yeltsin To Dismiss Kostikov

OW2903172993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of deputies has appealed to President Yeltsin to dismiss his press-secretary Kostikov "for an attempt to discredit the legislature (congress) and the president, to rig the decisions of the 9 emergency congress, and incite the public to anti- constitutional actions." Signed by Sergey Baburin, Iona Andronov, and other deputies, the draft of a decision to this effect was released at the Congress on Monday [29 March] and was submitted for adoption following a statement made by Mr. Kostikov in the morning on March 29.

Kostikov declared that by its decisions the Congress was "deliberately pushing the President and citizens for protest actions..., provoking civilians for confrontation in Russia." According to the press-secretary, "the Congress has become a hellish machine to undermine peace and political stability in Russia."

The signatories to the document suggest that the attorney-general consider the possibility of legal action against Kostikov for "his call to overthrow the RF [Russian Federation] constitutional system and to launch mass protest actions against the decisions of the supreme body of state power in Russia."

Congress Sets Procedure for Deciding on Early Elections

OW2903145293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The decision to hold early presidential and parliamentary elections in Russia will be final if over half of the total number of citizens with the right to vote are in favor of such elections at the April 25 referendum.

This manner of counting votes at the referendum was determined on Monday [29 March] by the 9th Congress of Russian People's deputies. The deputies were led by the fact that the responses to the issue of early elections could change the contents of the articles of the country's Constitution on the terms of the power of the president and deputies.

Chief of Staff Filatov on Kostikov's Statement

OW2903191993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commenting on the statement which Presidential Press- Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov voiced on March 29, the Russian President's Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov emphasized that the press- secretary has the right to voice his statements. However, Filatov says, the press-secretary "should stand nearer to the President's positions and to say words said to him by the President or which at least agree with the President."

Expressing his point of view with respect to Kostikov's statement, Filatov noted that "one should not have stirred up the Congress so much."

On Monday [29 March] the chief of staff held a conversation with a group of journalists.

Supreme Soviet First Vice Chairman, Chairmen Elected

LD2903164293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1612 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Yuriy Voronin, who was deputy chairman of the Russian Parliament, has been elected the first vice- chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet at the 9th Congress of People's Deputies of Russia.

Vladimir Ispravnikov, chairman of the Higher Economy Council in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and Valentin Agaphonov, chairman of the Social Rural Development, Agrarian Affairs and Food Council, have been elected vice-chairmen of the Supreme Soviet.

Further on New Deputy Heads

OW2903162993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the 9th Congress of Russian People's Deputies on Monday [29 March], new deputy chairmen of the country's parliament were chosen.

The forum made Yuriy Voronin Ruslan Khasbulatov's first deputy, while other deputy chairmen include Valentin Agafonov and Vladimir Ispravnikov.

Yuriy Voronin is 54 years old, Russian, and graduated from the Kazan Aviation Institute. He is an active member of the RF [Russian Federation] Academy of Technological Sciences. Before he was elected a people's deputy he worked as the deputy chairman of the Tatar Cabinet of ministers and chairman of Tatarstan's Gosplan (State planning organization).

A total of 608 deputies elected him first deputy chairman, 132 voted against and 27 deputies abstained.

Valentin Agafonov, born in 1935, is Russian and graduated from the Chuvashi Agricultural Institute and the Academy of Social Sciences at the Central Committee of the CPSU. He worked as first deputy chairman of the Chuvash government. Recently he was the chairman of the RF parliamentary committee for the social development of the country, agrarian issues and food.

A total of 519 supported his candidacy, 197 were against and 29 abstained.

Forty five year old Vladimir Ispravnikov graduated from the Omsk Polytechnic Institute. He is a candidate of science (economics). Before becoming a people's deputy he was in charge of a department of the Siberian automobile-road institute.

He received 604 votes, with 120 against and 37 abstentions.

Faction Accuses Yeltsin's Inner Circle of Stirring Conflict

LD2903143693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Leaders of the parliamentary faction Smena-Novaya Politika [New Policy] voiced serious concern over the escalation of the conflict between presidential and legislative authorities.

At a news conference in the press centre of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies today, Andrey Golovin, a faction leader, said "the conflict is being spilled into a muscular phase and casualties may appear any moment."

He said "the threats of a direct violence against deputies who do not support the president's course have increased lately." Golovin cited by way of an example Sunday's incident when the president's supporters who gathered at a rally badly hurt the head of people's deputy Aleksandr Golishnikov.

Golovin maintained that "Boris Yeltsin openly called on his supporters to fan up the conflict. A game without rules is beginning. The president may take many unconstitutional actions in the bid to retain power," he stressed.

On today's statement by the Russian president's press secretary, Golovin noted "it is one more link in kindling the civil conflict."

Participants in the news conference concentrated mostly on Yeltsin's inner circle, true, without mentioning specific surnames. According to Igor Muravyov, another leader of the faction, "these people are stoking up the civil conflict."

Secretariat Official Rounds Up Congress Work

LD2903164893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1408 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Speech by Deputy Varfolomeyev, member of the Congress Secretariat at the Ninth Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow—live]

[Text] During the congress, the Secretariat has registered 15 inquiries by deputies. Allow me to refrain from naming them to save your time. I will only say that all of them, as well as 100 petitions by people's deputies, have been promptly forwarded to the relevant ministries and departments for them to be examined and the necessary measures to be taken. The work of the Ninth Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies was also broadly commented on in the mail received by the congress. By the afternoon of 28 March, more than 2,000 letters and telegrams had arrived. The electorate supported the convocation of the extraordinary congress and regarded it as timely and necessary for defending constitutional legality and order. More than 70 percent of the entire mail is directly connected with the issues which were discussed at the congress. The main topics of the mail include electors' reaction to the issue of preserving Russia's constitutional system, and their attitude to the work of the congress and to President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, in connection with his appeal to the citizens of Russia.

The views expressed in the mail can be divided into two general groups: 70 percent of the messages support the activity of the congress and the Supreme Soviet and criticize the president's appeal, while 30 percent show a positive attitude to the president's activity and his television appeal and criticize the Congress of People's Deputies.

The congress received 85 telegrams expressing protests and indignation over the deliberate distortion of information by radio and television broadcasts, which has aggravated the confrontation in society. They demand that the slander against the congress, the Supreme Soviet, and the Constitutional Court be stopped. More than 100 telegrams contain specific requests by citizens related to issues in the social sphere and complaints

about the work of law enforcement bodies. The necessary measures are being taken on each petition which requires intercession.

The Secretariat of the congress received daily reports from the interior minister on the state of law and order in Moscow and in the country in general. I will not hold up your attention with these reports since Viktor Fedorovich Yerin, the esteemed interior minister of the Russian Federation, gave you a detailed report on this. I would like to add just one thing: 42 deputies responded to our procurator's announcement and gave evidence regarding the incident involving people's deputies yesterday evening. These documents have been sent to the procuracy and criminal proceedings have been instituted.

The congress held eight sittings and about 100 people's deputies spoke. After People's Deputy Nina Ivanovna Solodyakova spoke at the congress, people's deputies Kurkova and Kudinova applied to the Secretariat in order to call her to account for slander; they denied the facts quoted by People's Deputy Solodyakova. People's Deputy Solodyakova produced sources of information confirming her words. The Commission for Ethics will look into these documents in the future.

In response to proposals from people's deputies, the Secretariat has started analyzing the speeches made at the congress. Thus, more than 200 proposals and remarks were voiced during the first day of the Congress of People's Deputies alone. A significant proportion concern organizational and procedural issues. Seventy-one proposals and (?50) remarks are connected with issues to do with the implementation of the resolutions of the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies, [word indistinct] observance of the foundations of Russia's constitutional system, [word indistinct] of the federative treaty, the holding of the referendum, early elections, the activities of the Russian government, and interaction between the executive and representative authorities.

The working groups of the Secretariat are continuing to collate the proposals and remarks from people's deputies. All of them will be forwarded to the relevant committees of the Supreme Soviet and the commissions of its chambers. Forty statements from the Russian Federation people's deputies were directly addressed to the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies. More than 50 documents were quickly photocopied and handed out to people's deputies.

Today, according to procedure, the congress Secretariat decided to register the Freedom of Speech deputies' group, which has 76 people's deputies of the Russian Federation.

The statement by Mr. Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian Federation president, evoked a sharp protest among people's deputies. The statement contained direct insults to the congress and appeals to violate the constitution. At its 29 March sitting, the Secretariat decided to send the text of the statement to the Russian Federation procurator general and the head of the state inspectorate in charge of protecting the freedom of press and mass information media of the Russian Ministry of Press.

In order for the congress to function, its organizations created a businesslike atmosphere. On behalf of the Secretariat, allow me to express gratitude to all those who took an active part in the preparations for and the holding of the congress and, especially, to the working group of the Secretariat. Thank you for your attention.

Khasbulatov Makes Closing Speech to Congress

LD2903161593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1414 29 Mar 93

[Speech by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov at the closing session of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies in the Kremlin in Moscow on 29 March—live]

[Text] Esteemed Congress: Permit me to spend just two or three minutes making some concluding remarks, especially as I am not confident that we will be parting for long, since events really are becoming extremely unfavorable and unpredictable. Thank goodness you have seen all this for yourselves during these three days.

Esteemed people's deputies, esteemed guests, in making a very preliminary and initial review of results, which we must all reflect on seriously, we naturally ask ourselves one fundamental question, first and foremost: Did the congress deputies resolve the task for which they gathered here? This task was a difficult one. Many speakers did not even dare speak the words out loud, even though the subject at issue was a fairly straightforward attempt to stage a coup d'etat. There was hardly any reason so shamefully to evade using those words.

I think the first point to be made about what we actually accomplished is that the Eighth Congress, the previous Congress of People's Deputies, paved the way—very effectively, one can say—for a normal development of the constitutional process and a resolution of the constitutional dispute. By contrast, the Ninth Congress defended this far from perfect Constitution to a significant extent and did so in a very critical situation. At all events, no matter how certain officials may have evaluated this situation, no matter how provocative they were at this rostrum, there is no doubt that the Congress defended the state's existing Constitution.

Naturally, not everything here worked out as we hoped. But we can firmly say that unconstitutional decisions, which had already been put into effect to all intents and purposes, were forestalled for virtually the first time in Russia. But their progress is still far from having been halted.

But how were things before? We were also fighting against consequences. The Congress has averted a most grave danger which hung over our country for our people and for the cause of democracy. And really, if the plan

outlined by the president's team had been implemented, this would, ultimately, have meant a rolling back of social development to the worst days of totalitarianism, to a split in society, and quite possibly—I am not sure of course—but possibly to civil war.

Next, there is every reason to claim that the mechanism for resolving a constitutional crisis, by means of the Constitutional Court itself, the Supreme Soviet, and the procurator general, has been tested in our country to some extent. Moreover, one can and should say that many state heads and political leaders have demonstrated what was really state wisdom, a principled approach, and courage, including personal courage; but we have witnessed something else—the very opposite—here as well.

The Congress has shown in practice to our Russian society and to the whole world that the process of democratic change in our country is gaining impetus and strength. Confidence is growing that all attempts to stop it or slow it down, from whatever quarter and from whatever top echelon of power they may come, are at least for the near future doomed to failure. But we should have courage, despite the fact that we do not have—and, of course, neither can defenders of the Constitution and parliamentarians have—any means of preventing such a national tragedy other than the force of the law and the Constitution. And let various liars not claim otherwise. Neither the Congress nor the Supreme Soviet have any tools to overcome an offensive using armed force or any other means, other than their word and the Constitution and the strength of the law.

Herein lies the main lesson of the dramatic events of this March., and they were truly dramatic.

Third, the Congress has laid bare the tough confrontation between the powers in the country, and has shown that such a confrontation can no longer be tolerated. It has demonstrated in reality that this confrontation is leading to the destruction of those very forces that are trying to maintain it. We can see how the power of the very president is being destroyed before our eyes.

In whose interests is this? At any rate it is not in the interests of the legislators represented here, nor is it in the interests of our population.

The Congress made decisions of practical significance in order to defuse this political confrontation. Specifically, to paraphrase a well-known theoretician, we can say that the referendum about which the neo-Bolsheviks have spoken and dreamed for so long will come to pass. Go ahead, use this referendum in order to achieve those political aims, as long as it is by legal and constitutional means. So the referendum is a reality. No one dare say that the lawmakers stood in the way of a referendum.

The Congress showed quite unambiguously and clearly that authoritarianism and leaderism are unacceptable for our country. In current circumstances, they give rise only to mirth and ridicule. The Congress decisions on maintaining the constitutional system in the country, on holding a referendum, and on the mass media contain practical and profoundly democratic measures aimed at least at an attempt to stabilize the situation.

In making this analysis, we would not claim that we have fully stabilized the situation. But one thing is a reality: that all these decisions are aimed at stabilizing the situation. If we are not hindered, the situation will indeed be stabilized.

Fourth, during the Congress we were once again convinced that we are in dire need of a highly professional and responsible government which works on the basis of accord and on the support of the major public forces and regions. The Congress demanded that such a government be formed, because in the more than three months since the new government was confirmed we have not seen any real action, although it claims that it has a very strong team of ministers.

It is curious: Everyone curses, yet what would have happened if we had held a Congress as scheduled in April rather than now and two weeks ago, and if we had not called the government to account on this? You yourselves know what the consequences would have been. So the head of the government needs to make use of the remaining period until June. These months will fly past as quickly as the last three months. I am convinced that the center of gravity is today shifting toward federal government to a significant degree; this has been said by us and by others, and by everyone in the country's executive authority. And here the parliamentarians, the Supreme Soviet, and the Congress have shown once again that they intend to help the government. They do intend to help. And there is a lot that we have to do here.

This should, above all, be done in a practical way. The specific alignment of public forces should be elucidated, and the president, the prime minister, and the Supreme Soviet should hold consultations. Of course, it is those who really represent our fellow citizens who should be involved in this process, and not those who led the rallies today, for example. I can assure you that they do not represent their fellow citizens. Parliamentary factions should be involved in this too, as should the trade unions and the real, informal leaders—naturally and above all, that very same roundtable and those roundtables that are being set up in our regions, and about which there was a special decision at the Sixth Congress. And it seems, let me reiterate, that there this process appears to have got going.

The government should be formed behind the program of anticrisis measures, as a result of the work of this roundtable. A kind of economic corridor of accord between the main social forces needs to be created, all the more so, as we said opening the Congress, because creativity is accord. People do not really want to go for each other's throats unless they are stirred up to do so. And even if they are stirred up, they do not want to.

Some people wanted to stir people up here, including against us, but people do not want it. They are people.

In June, as we agreed, we will hold a special congress devoted to economic and social problems, at which we will discuss the course of economic reform. We must prepare very carefully for the congress and make a whole package of documents that are worked through and coordinated. And I would like that congress to pass off constructively, for the good of everyone, for the good of our fellow citizens.

Esteemed colleagues, esteemed members of the government, guests, and everyone who has been taking part in our work here, allow me, in conclusion, to thank you for your fruitful cooperation during the work of this Congress and to wish you substantial successes in your work at local level as you explain the decisions of our Congress and put them into practice. I wish you all the best, esteemed deputies. Until we meet again soon.

I declare the Congress closed.

Goodbye. Goodbye once again.

Congress Ends

LD2903161993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1552 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The extraordinary ninth meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, the country's supreme legislature ended in Moscow on Monday [29 March].

The four-day congress met to debate ways out of the political crisis which brought to a head the conflict between the legislative and the executive.

Congress participants differ on the outcome of the forum. Some say it strengthened the constitutional system, others are sure that the congress decisions further increased political instability.

According to Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, the congress "defended the constitution of Russia in a critical situation". Khasbulatov said in his closing remarks that "for the first time Russia has been able to avert unconstitutional decisions", referring to the cancellation of the president's plan to establish an emergency rule in the country.

The congress reached a peak when it held a secret ballot on Sunday to decide whether the president and the parliament president should be divested of their powers. As a result of the voting, both leaders retained their posts.

Yeltsin Holds Conference With Deputies, Premier

OW3003133093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said the recent Congress of People's Deputies failed to accomplish its principal task: impeaching the president and sowing discord between the government and the president. Cooperation between them has further strengthened and become the basis for stability in the country and a guarantee of tranquillity for the people of Russia, Boris Yeltsin told a large group of people's deputies in the Kremlin on Tuesday [30 March].

As the president's press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said, the meeting took place at the request of the deputies.

Many speakers at the meeting said the congress had not been conducive to socio-political stabilization in the country, and that many of its decisions seriously violated the Constitution, and the law on referendums and the press. They suggested that the president make corresponding representations to the Constitutional Court.

According to Deputy Nikolay Arzhannikov, who participated in the meeting, issues concerning preparations for the April 25 referendum were also discussed. He said it had been suggested at the meeting, which, he claimed, had been called by the president's staff, that two referendums be held on April 25: on questions proposed by the congress and those proposed by the president. Arzhannikov said the majority of the nearly 100 deputies taking part in the meeting had objected to the president having his own questions put on the referendum ballot papers. Yeltsin did not give any conclusions about the discussion, the deputy said, "thus I cannot say what decision he will make."

Deputy Mikhail Arutyunov told Interfax the meeting participants had managed to persuade the president not to put any parallel issues, including those concerning the Constitution, to the vote at the referendum.

Deputy Aleksandr Kopeika said Yeltsin had agreed that discussions on a new constitution should not be resumed before the referendum was over.

Deputy Rasul Mikailov told Interfax the president was going to protest to the Constitutional Court against the congress's inclusion in the referendum ballot papers of a question on the socioeconomic policy pursued by his government since 1992.

According to Arzhannikov, no decision was made to keep secret what the meeting was about. The discussion was "absolutely free, and some of the deputies were taping it on Dictaphones."

The same day, Kostikov said, Yeltsin had a lengthy meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, their discussion centering around political and economic issues.

Discusses Congress Results

LD3003105193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] We have received reports saying that a meeting between President Yeltsin and a large group of People's Deputies was held in the Kremlin today on the latter's request. They discussed the results of the latest Congress of People's Deputies.

Many speakers pointed out that the Congress had not contributed to a stabilization of the sociopolitical situation in the country, and that many decisions had been adopted with serious breaches of constitutional norms, of the law on the referendum, and of the law on the press. The president was advised to file appropriate applications to the Constitutional Court.

Speaking about the results of the Congress, Boris Yeltsin noted that the Congress failed to meet its ultimate objective: to impeach the president and to introduce a split in the close union and cooperation between the president and the government. The president stressed that this cooperation had been strengthened even further, and that it formed the basis of stability in the country, being a guarantee that the people of Russia could live and work in peace. This was a report we received from the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Chernomyrdin Urges 'Businesslike' Government

LD2903211893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Council of Ministers Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin met today with heads of administrations and members of the federation [as heard] who were present at the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies. Issues concerning the regulation of the economy and the establishment of order in the vertical executive system were discussed. RIA has learned that the heads of administrations supported the wish of the prime minister to establish order and to set up a single vertical executive system.

Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that in the present situation the government must become a businesslike working body. The representatives of the regions and the leaders of the government agreed to have regular telephone hook-up conferences of members of the federation with the central government.

Kostikov Condemns Congress' 'Provocative Activity'

PM3003100793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 93 First Edition p 1

["Statement by Russian Federation President's Press Secretary"]

[Text] Having suffered defeat in the shameful intention of using a false and anticonstitutional procedure to take power from the president elected by all the people, the congress of people's deputies has failed to draw any lessons from its political debacle and is continuing to expand the sphere of its anticonstitutional actions.

It totally ignores public opinion and the will of the people expressed in the wave of support for the legally elected president which swept the whole country and the mass protest against the congress' destructive activity.

Using the connivance of the Constitutional Court, the congress is continuing to destroy the country's constitutional space, weakened by the previous decisions of the congress and the Supreme Soviet. The congress is deliberately pushing the country's president and population toward civil protest actions. Abusing the president's desire to seek compromise solutions, he congress is provoking Russians to civil resistance.

The congress has become an infernal machine for destroying civil peace and political stability in Russia.

The congress has violated all conceivable and inconceivable bounds of political decency and human morality: It is tirelessly insulting the president, ministers, government, and Russians.

By its constant anticonstitutional actions and endless violations of the standing orders the congress has put itself above and outside the law and has gone beyond the framework of democratic and Russian civilization. It has become a vindictive communist inquisition prepared, for the sake of restoring its totalitarian rule, to burn everything around it relating to democracy, glasnost, human rights, and the dignity of the Russian people and all Russians.

Embarking on the dangerous path of endless violations of the Constitution, the congress and its overt and clandestine leadership bear full responsibility for their provocative activity and for the destruction of civil peace in Russia.

[Signed] Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, Moscow, Kremlin, 29 March 1993

Comments on Yeltsin's 'Defeat'

OW2903191393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Everything that I wanted to say on the outcome of the Congress I have already mentioned in my statement," Vyacheslav Kostikov, the presidential press-secretary, said at the end of the Congress to journalists. He reported that the president has already submitted a petition to the Constitutional Court due to "a number of constitutional violations at this Congress," including the voting on impeachment.

The press-secretary also noted that the resolution on the referendum adopted by the deputies on Monday [29 March] "actually predicts the President's defeat."

Kostikov does not rule out a possibility that Boris Yeltsin will conduct an opinion poll simultaneously with the referendum and said that he cannot say this for sure. "The President is to think over the results of the Congress and then to make a decision," he underlined.

The press-secretary also declared that there is still no premises to cancel the meeting between the Russian President and the head of the U.S. administration scheduled for April 3- 4 in Vancouver.

Deputies Comment on Outcome of Congress, Referendum

OW2903193293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gennadiy Sayenko, coordinator of the Russian Unity bloc, said that the bloc is quite satisfied with the outcome of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies because it had opposed the referendum and pre-term elections all along but in an Interfax interview he expressed his concern that the republics integrated in the Russian Federation are likely to include their own questions on confederative ties in the ballots.

The same concern was expressed by Sergey Baburin, leader of the "Russia" parliamentary group. In his view, "the referendum was and remains a serious danger to the state's territorial integrity." Baburin does not doubt that some of the republics will either not hold the referendum at all or have their own questions asked.

Speaking on the overall results of the Congress, Baburin said that the Congress demonstrated its desire for peace and expressed his regret that this desire and leniency of the Congress made it possible to get away with "the violations of the Constitution and unconstitutional appeals made by the president."

Democratic Deputies Dissatisfied With Congress

LD2903221493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1535 GMT 29 Mar 93

[by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 March—Commenting on the results of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, which ended earlier today, deputies from democratic factions did not conceal the fact that they had failed to score a single serious victory at the forum.

Gleb Yakunin pointed out when talking to journalists that most of the congress's decisions required careful deliberation. He confessed that because amendments on most important issues were "put forward quite unexpectedly," he often had no time to find out what exactly had been put to the vote. "I do not yet know whether to take part in the referendum on 25 April, or to campaign against it," he said. Neither is it yet clear what the president's supporters should do in the situation where the congress practically forbade the president to carry out his own poll among the population. "We should thoroughly think over everything that happened," Gleb Yakunin stressed.

A more clear-cut assessment of the outcome of the forum was given by Marina Salye, who said immediately after the conclusion of the congress that Russia had "stepped outside legality," and that it is "now impossible to say when the rule of law will return to this country." At the same time she emphasized that in her view, legitimate authority still exists in Russia, in the person of its president, "not because Boris Yeltsin was elected in a nationwide vote, but because the institution of presidential power was established in Russia by the people, while the congress is a direct heir to the Bolshevist coup."

Answering a question on her attitude to the referendum endorsed by the congress, Marina Salye noted that all sorts of things could happen in the run-up to 25 April, and that she is not sure that "this referendum will not be cancelled in the same way as the one scheduled for 11 April was cancelled." According to Marina Salye, the only way out of the present situation acceptable to democracy would be to hold the referendum in accordance with the formula suggested by Boris Yeltsin.

Khasbulatov, Rutskoy Comment on Congress, Referendum

LD2903205393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By correspondent Dadyko, including recording of comments by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Vice President Aleksandr Rustkoy; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Dadyko] How do the country's highest officials assess the results of the completed Congress of People's Deputies and the upcoming referendum?

[Khasbulatov] There has been a result, and quite a strong and effective one. After all, we showed that regardless of what office you might hold, breaking the Basic Law, if not lethally dangerous, is all the same quite serious.

[Rutskoy] People cannot back off from this referendum on the principle that: This does not concern me, I'm fed up with all this. You can't think like that. It is precisely this referendum which should put an stop to it, a stop which will tell us where we are going and to what end. Either we will slide back again, or we will pursue the course of reform. But reform not in words but in action.

ITAR-TASS Views Congress Last Day, Outcome

LD2903135593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—The echoes of Sunday's [28 March] stormy events have marred the

morning meeting of the 9th Congress of People's Deputies. Putting aside the agenda, the MPs got down to the discussion of the yesterday's demonstrations around the Kremlin—one in support of President Yeltsin and the other against him.

Two mps accused the president of "instigation" and the law enforcement bodies—of "conniving with the crowd". MP Aleksandr Golishnikov walked up to the rostrum with a bandaged head. He said he was hit by "one of the president's supporters during the meeting".

Parliament Speaker Khasbulatov, who commented on the meeting of Yeltsin's supporters, said that "outright calls to rebellion were heard there". Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov, who took the floor after him, noted that officials of law enforcement bodies and people responsible for such outrages could be brought to book, including to criminal responsibility. The congress summoned the Moscow mayor and the Interior Ministry to the congress.

The president did not attend the morning sitting.

Then the congress adopted a resolution "on urgent measure to safeguard the constitutional system of the Russian Federation". It notes that the congress shares the goals outlined in President Yeltsin's address, aiming to safeguard the foundations of the Russian constitutional system. At the same time, the MPs stressed that the ways and means, chosen for this purpose, did not correspond to the Russian Constitution. "The implementation of these decisions is a direct way to fan up confrontation in our society and to aggravate the political crisis," the document claims.

Article 1 of the resolution records a "violation of the constitution, confirmed by a Constitutional Court ruling" in the actions and decisions of the president, linked with his March 20 address to the Russian people. The resolution notes that "B.N. Yeltsin is personally responsible for the aggravation of the confrontation between the authorities and in the society".

The congress suspended the action of several presidential decrees, including the decree "on the work of executive bodies until the power crisis is overcome", pending a ruling by the Constitutional Court. The MPs have annulled the institute of presidential appointees in the regions. The president and prime minister were recommended to form a coalition government of national concord. All the bodies and institutions, formed under the presidency and discharging state administrative functions have been turned over to the government. The congress has abolished the Russian Federal Information Centre.

The congress has approved several instructions to the Supreme Soviet, in particular, to draw up amendments to the constitution, deleting from the basic law all articles that contradict the principle of division of powers. The document envisages legal preparations for the formation of a two-chamber federal supreme legislative organ of state power of the Russian Federation and measures to define more clearly the status of the president and the Constitutional Court. It has ruled to draw up a package of legislations to implement the federal treaty. The document contains no direct answer to the question of what will happen to the Congress of People's Deputies.

The congress has turned down several amendments, which would have substantially supplemented the resolution. For instance, it waived the proposal to note not only the personal responsibility of the president for the aggravation of the confrontation between the authorities and for the political confrontation in society, but also of the speaker and chairman of the Constitutional Court.

There were repeated calls to include in the resolution a demand for Yeltsin's voluntary resignation, but Chairman of the Editorial Commission Nikolay Ryabov said that the question was settled during the Sunday vote, which did not poll the needed qualified majority of votes for the president's impeachment.

After adopting the resolution "on urgent measures to safeguard the constitutional system", the deputies went over to the discussion of the draft document "on the all-Russia referendum of April 25, 1993, and on the procedure of summing up its results".

Analyzes Results of Ninth Congress

LD3003003393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1534 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS observer Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 29 Mar—Having made any possibility of compromise unreal, the Extraordinary Ninth Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, which ended in the Kremlin today, has only led to the intensified confrontation of the power structures in Russia. Observers agree that the forum, the second this month, did not bring the desired victory to the president's adversaries who are working for his removal from office. At the same time it weakened his position in the ruling of the state.

So what are the main results of the congress? First of all the question of the president's immunity, which arose on the third day of the work of the congress, did not receive the approval of two- thirds of all the deputies. Boris Yeltsin interpreted this as his victory, congratulating his supporters gathered outside the Kremlin walls on it, and concluding: "The communist coup has not taken place."

But overall it must be admitted that it would be an obvious exaggeration to speak of Boris Yeltsin's complete victory at the congress. A number of the congress's adopted resolutions have cut down his powers so strongly, directly encroaching on the prerogatives of executive power.

The president received several serious blows. The first was the congress's resolution "On Urgent Measures To

Preserve the Constitutional Structure of the Russian Federation," which directly encroaches on the sphere of his powers, and contains a number of clauses which are simply humiliating for a head of state. The document notes his personal responsibility "for stepping up the confrontation of the powers and the political confrontation in society." The resolution suspends the force of a number of the president's decrees, including the decree of 20 March "On the Activity of the Executive Bodies Until the Crisis of Power is Overcome." The Constitutional Court is to make a ruling on them.

By decision of the deputies, the institution of local representatives of the president is abolished. The president and chairman of the government are asked to form a coalition government of national consensus. All bodies and institutions formed under the president and fulfilling the functions of state administration are transferred to the jurisdiction of the government. The Russian Federal Information Center is abolished. The president is charged with the obligation of "releasing from office persons who compromised themselves by drafting the president's address to the citizens of Russia of 20 March 1993."

Another challenge to the head of state was the adoption of the resolution "On Measures To Ensure Freedom of Speech on State TV and Radio," which effectively transferred control of electronic mass information media from executive to representative bodies of power.

Finally, the president's amendments to the resolution "On the All-Russian Referendum of 25 April 1993," the procedure for summing up its outcome and machinery for implementing the results of the referendum were rejected. Under the adopted version four questions will be put to referendum: on confidence in the president, on approval of the socio-economic policy being implemented by the president and government since 1992, on the expedience of holding early elections of the president, and also of the people's deputies. It is quite obvious that the second question, included on the list despite the categorical objections of the president and his "team", has very little chance of approval and overall may undermine the president's position in the voting. [passage omitted]

The president will inevitably react to the congress's decisions, which have tied him hand and foot, and it remains only to guess how. The parliament is bound to react to any of the president's measures in response. To the "war of powers" there is no end in sight, even the nearest future seems unpredictable. Russia is going through a complex moment of its history, tension is growing, and responsibility for this is borne by all the sides.

Rounds Up Final Day

LD2903171793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1626 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Monday [29 March], the fourth day in the work of the Russian People's Congress, became its closing day. As compared to Sunday's stormy events associated with the vote to impeach the Russian president and recall the parliament speaker, deputies' work proceeded more peacefully today. But the essence of the adopted decisions is more important.

The congress passed the resolution "on urgent measures to preserve the constitutional system of the Russian Federation" pointing out, in part, that means and methods of complying with the basic principles of Russia's constitutional system, which were chosen by the president, are at odds with the constitution, lead to "confrontation in society and the deepening of the political crisis."

By this decision the congress actually curbed drastically Boris Yeltsin's rights and powers: It suspended several of the president's decrees and dissolved the institute of his representatives in provinces. The president and prime minister were proposed to form a coalition government - the government of national accord (the principle of its accord remained unclear).

All bodies and institutions formed in the office of the president and fulfilling state management functions are transferred under the government's authority. Russia's Federal Information Centre is also dissolved. Points of the draft resolution envisaging the creation of a two-chamber federal supreme legislative body of state authority, specifying the status of the president and the Constitutional Court and calling for working out bills to implement the federal treaty, including the mentioning of the Federation Council were cancelled.

The second important decision by the congress was the resolution "on the all-Russian referendum of April 25, 1993, the procedure for summing up its outcome and the mechanism for implementing the referendum's results". Around a hundred amendments were considered during the lengthy work on the draft. The preamble states that the referendum will be held "to overcome the political crisis in the Russian Federation".

The issues to be put to the nation-wide vote were worded as follows: "Do you trust President of the Russian Federation B.N. Yeltsin?", "Do you approve the socio-economic policy that has been pursued by the president of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation since 1992?", "Do you regard as necessary the holding of early elections of president of the Russian Federation?", "Do you regard as necessary to hold early elections of people's deputies of the Russian Federation?"

It was established that for decision-making it is enough if over half of eligible citizens cast their ballots in their favour rather than of citizens who took part in the vote as was the case during the election of Yeltsin. The resolution prohibits the financing of "agitation concerning the referendum with citizens' personal funds."

At the morning session, deputies heard reports by Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. Their appearance was prompted by Sunday's events near the Kremlin where two rival demonstrations - in support of Yeltsin and against him - were held. Two deputies accused the president of "instigation" and law enforcement agencies - of "indulging the crowd" which, as they put it, staged violence against deputies who were leaving the Kremlin.

One of the deputies, Aleksandr Golishnikov, was hit in the head by one of the participants in the rally. Yerin said criminal proceedings were instituted in the fact of causing body injuries. Yerin and Luzhkov assured the congress that necessary measures are being taken to ensure the deputies' security. At the same time, they admitted that "the rally activeness has sharply increased" during the holding of the congress in the country and frequently it takes the form of "vulgar and insulting actions". On Khasbulatov's proposal, a special resolution on this issue was adopted.

The congress today elected Yuriy Voronin, who was parliament deputy chief, as first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. Vladimir Ispravnikov, head of the Supreme Soviet Presidium's Supreme Economic Council, and Valentin Agafonov, head of the Committee for the Social Development of the Countryside, Agrarian Issues and Food, as deputy chairmen of the Supreme Soviet.

Rifts between representative and executive powers continued to exert influence on the congress's proceedings. A statement by the Russian President's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov drew a strong protest from deputies. He accused the congress of "being turned into an infernal machine for destroying civil peace and political stability in Russia." The congress's secretariat referred this statement to the public prosecutor's officer for consideration.

President Boris Yeltsin did not attend the congress today. His press secretary reported that he visited the cemetery to pay homage to his mother's memory who died nine days ago.

The head of the congress's secretariat Vladimir Varfolomeyev said the congress received over 2,000 letters and telegrammes during the days of its work, in which Russian citizens and worker collectives expressed their attitude to the developments at the forum and around it. The secretariat registered 15 deputy inquiries and 100 appeals.

Delivering concluding remarks, Ruslan Khasbulatov said "the congress defended the existing constitution." he said "Unconstitutional decisions were managed to be staved off" for the first time in the country's history. By and large, "the congress's decisions are aimed at stabilising the situation in Russia," Khasbulatov emphasised and announced the extraordinary Ninth Congress of People's Deputies closed.

Considers Main Results of Congress

LD3003093593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0835 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Having torpedoed all the possibilities for a compromise, the 9th extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies, which ended in the Kremlin here on Monday, has merely aggravated the confrontation between the Russian power structures. Analysts are unanimous that the forum, held for the second time this month, had not brought the wanted victory to the president's opponents, who tried to impeach him. However, it was able to weaken the president's positions within the state administration.

What are the main results of the congress? Firstly, the president's impeachment, started on the third day of the congress, failed to poll the needed two-thrids of the votes (689). Boris Yeltsin described this as his victory and congratulated on it his supporters, rallying around the Kremlin. He rounded off by saying: "A communist coup did not occur".

However, it would be an obvious exaggeration to say that Yeltsin has achieved a complete victory over the congress. Several resolutions, adopted by the congress, have greatly curtailed his powers by directly infringing upon the prerogatives of the executive branch of government.

The president has been dealt several grave blows. The first one is the congress's resolution "on urgent measures to safeguard the constitutional system of the Russian Federation", which directly intrudes into the spheres of his powers ("into the life of the president's apparatus", as Yeltsin said himself). It contains several paragraphs humiliating the head of state. The document notes his personal responsibility "for increasing the confrontation between the authorities and for political confrontation in society". The resolution suspends the action of several presidential decrees, including the decree "on the work of executive bodies to overcome the power crisis", dated March 20. The Constitutional Court is to pass a ruling on these decrees.

The congress has abolished the institute of presidential appointees in the regions. The president and the prime minister are recommended to form a coalition government of national concord. It ought to be noted that this point has evoked many questions from the deputies, who wanted to clarify the principles on which such a cabinet is to be formed). All the organs and institutions, formed under the presidency and discharging state administrative functions, have been turned over to the government. The congress has abolished the Federal Information Centre of Russia. The president was asked to "dismiss

the people who had discredited themselves by drawing up the president's address to the nation of March 20, 1993".

The adoption of a resolution "on measures to guarantee the freedom of speech on the state television and radio network" was another challenge to the head of state. It actually places all the electronic means of mass information under the control of the representative authorities.

And, finally, the congress has turned down the president's amendments to the resolution "on the all-Russia referendum of April 25, 1993, the procedures for summing up its results, and the mechanism for implementing the results of the vote". In accordance with the approved version, four questions will be put to the referendum: on confidence in the president, on the approval of the socio-economic policy implemented by the president and the government as of 1992, on the expediency of holding pre-term presidential elections and also elections of the people's deputies. It is absolutely obvious that the second question, included in the list in spite of the categoric objection of the president and his team, has very little chances to be approved by the voters and may undermine the president's positions during the referendum.

However, the most important was the second article of the resolution, determining the procedures for interpreting the results of the referendum during the count. The congress approved a formula, in accordance with which the results of the vote on the referendum questions will be approved if more than 50 per cent of the people, entitled to be included in the voting lists, were to cast their ballots for them. The rejected presidential amendment envisaged another number of votes—50 per cent of the people taking part in the referendum. This rule was used during the election of President Yeltsin. The adoption of this article seems to doom the president to a defeat in advance, because even during his election in 1991, when Yeltsin's rating was much higher than now and the population was politically much more active, he polled less than 50 per cent of the votes cast by the registered voters (but more than 50 per cent of those that came to the polls).

Thus, the 9th congress, instead of being a step towards reconciliation between the two branches of government, has actually strained the situation and made any compromise quite unlikely. And even worse: the struggle between the executive and legislative branches of government, instead of being stabilised at least to some extent, has this time produced a sharp aggravation of civic confrontation in many Russian towns and cities, where numerous meetings of Yeltsin's supporters and opponents were held. This was particularly obvious in Moscow.

The speech delivered by Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov at the end of the congress was that of a winner. He said that the "congress has upheld the existing constitution in a critical situation". The implementation of the president's plans, he claimed, had produced a split in society and was fraught with a civil war. "We are witnessing how how the presidency is breaking up before our very eyes," he added.

Already this statement signalled further struggles between the two branches of power. The president has already addressed a letter to the Constitutional Court, asking it to pass a ruling on the constitutionality of the congress's impeachment attempt. It is easy to predict that similar appeals will be filed practically against all the decisions passed by the congress.

The president will definitely react to the congress's decisions, which had tied him hand and foot. But it only remains to guess in what way. The parliament will surely react to any reply measures taken by the president. No end to the "war of powers" is in sight. And even the immediate future appears unpredictable. Russia is living through a very complicated period of its history. Tension is growing and all the sides are responsible for it.

St. Petersburg Mayor Sobchak Urges Support for Yeltsin

OW2903140793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mayor of St. Petersburg Anatoliy Sobchak urged city council deputies to support the Russian president's course of economic reforms. He appeared Tuesday [as received] at the opening of a city council session.

Sobchak said the events at the Congress represent an attempt to stage a revolution from above by neo-Bolshevik and pro-communist forces, who are not supported by the public. These forces only have influence in parliament and are taking advantage of that influence. The practice of initiating various provocations has already played a role in the power struggle, said Sobchak, warning that the developments in Russia could take the shape of the Yugoslav conflict.

"We are witnessing not opposition between the legislative and executive powers, but opposition between the supporters and opponents of reform," said the mayor. He stressed that, according to his information, the opposition has decided not to close the Congress until the president is removed from office.

Sobchak supports the idea of early presidential and parliamentary elections and re-elections for local organs of power. However, he feels the elections for federal and local offices should be conducted separately.

Provinces React to Congress Results

LD2903221093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1815 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Summary] Vorkuta (The Komi Republic) [no date as received]—The newspaper VORKUTA: CHAS PIK has set up a public committee in support of the referendum proposed by the president. It intends to provide practical help to organize the referendum.

Kemerovo (Western Siberia)—The participants of a public meeting in Kemerovo voiced their conviction that only the referendum and a new constitution can save Russia from disintegration. They also expressed their strong support for the president.

Chelyabinsk (The Urals)—Here the organizers of the "Association in Support of the Russian President" held a founding meeting today. The association has been set up by heads of a number of businesses and scientific enterprises.

St. Petersburg—The extraordinary session of the city council today criticized the "neo-bolshevist" forces at the Congress and voiced support for Boris Yeltsin.

Belgorod (Central Russia)—Ivan Gusarov, head of administration of Staryy Oskol, said today that all efforts must now be directed at reviving the economy, and that this is the only way out of the impasse.

Stavropol (North Caucasus)—The Council of the Stavropol kray businessmen's congress believes that Yeltsin's tactics exacerbate the confrontation in society, and that he should conduct fruitful consultations with all parties and movements backing the reforms if he wants to secure the support of industrialists and businessmen.

Murmansk—Yevgeniy Komarov, head of administration of Murmansk oblast, said today that yesterday's vote was the best possible outcome because it averted civil war.

Regional Reaction to Presidential Vote of Confidence

LD2903082193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0755 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow [dateline as received]—The Union of Russian Cities has called on Russian leaders to seek a way out of the present confrontation "on the basis of well thought-out and concerted steps, strictly within the framework of constitutional processes".

The statement issued by the union, which unites the majority of Russian towns and cities, stresses that "the interests of the peoples of Russia are more important than the wishes of political leaders, the actions of which have confronted the state with a crisis of federal governing bodies, have brought Russia's statehood to the brink of an abyss".

"We strongly condemn any political actions, drawing the people into a futile and dangerous civil confrontation. We are resolved to resolutely oppose any attempts to split the society, to set at loggerheads the representative and executive branches of government in Russian towns and cities, and to destroy our local self-government", the document says.

The union's statement was handed out to Russian MPs here today.

Belgorod. "Sunday was probably the most critical day in the entire history of the Russian Congresses of People's Deputies. The current congress has clearly shown that the conservative forces were planning to take their revenge," ITAR-TASS was told by head of the Stary Oskol administration Ivan Gusarov. "And thanks God, this did not happen. And this did not occur only because the people of Russia have come out, on their own initiative, in support of the achievements of democracy. I think our people's deputies should today carefully think everything over, should analyse their actions and realise that it is impermissible to go against the will of the people. All the political forces must realise: all the efforts of our society must now be focused on the revival of our economy and only on this task. This is how we shall finally be able to jointly find a way out of the impasse, in which Russia has landed."

Stavropol. "The strategy of reliance on a narrow part of the spectrum of political forces, recently chosen by the Russian president, is unconstructive. It aggravates the confrontation in our society," the Council of the Stavropol Congress of Businessmen, uniting active supporters of a radical economic reform, has declared in its statement. "A law-governed society, and we want to have such a society in Russia, cannot tolerate any disrespect for the constitution, irrespective of whether this disrespect finds expression in overhasty congress amendments or in the president's decrees and appeals, ignoring some of its articles," the statement stresses. The Stavropol Congress of Businessmen believes that only a resultative dialogue with all parties and movements, supporting the reforms, will ensure the president a genuine backing from most industrialists and businessmen.

Murmansk. Commenting on the results of the Sunday confidence vote at the congress, head of the Murmansk regional administration Yevgeniy Komarov noted: "This is the best version among all the possible ones, because we have thereby avoided a civil war. The society is politicised to such an extent today that one careless spark may set everything afire. Confrontation will not be of any benefit to our society. It is necessary to seek some compromise in order to resolve all the current political problems. I believe such a decision will be found before the congress is over and common sense will triumph over emotions."

Barnaul Democrats Support Yeltsin

OW3003111493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1042 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the 9th emergency Congress of People's Deputies, Barnaul residents contributed 2.5 million rubles to the Altai fund in support of the RF [Russian Federation] President. At a briefing in the regional administration, Altai university lecturer Yuriy Rostov reported that in a poll among Barnaul residents, 73 percent of the respondents favored a national referendum in Russia.

At public meetings across Altai, speakers have repeatedly proposed dismissing those deputies who have not lived up to their voters' expectations. They have also suggested raising the issue on confidence in the regional council.

Omsk Oblast Leader Supports Yeltsin

LD2903210293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Mar 93

[from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] (Leonid Polezhayev), head of administration of the Omsk oblast, expressed full support for the president in a radio broadcast today. He said that regardless of the progress of the congress, the administration will continue to be guided in its actions by the Russian Government statement of 21 March, where the cabinet approved the president's address to the people.

Murmansk Administration Chief Comments on Congress

LD2903214693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Touching on the results of the voting which took place at the Congress of People's Deputies on Sunday [28 March], Yevgeniy Komarov, head of Murmansk oblast administration, noted that it was the best of all possible outcomes, since we thus avoided civil war. Society is now so politicized that one spark is enough for a conflagration. Confrontation would not be in society's interests; it is necessary to search for some kind of a compromise to resolve all political problems. I think that such decisions will have been found by the end of the Congress and that reason will triumph over emotion.

Siberia, Far East Reaction to Yeltsin Reported

OW2903140893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Stable economic and political development of Russia will only be insured with President Yeltsin holding his office, reads the resolution adopted yesterday by the meeting in Novosibirsk organized by the local division of the Democratic Russia movement.

The participants in the rally said they viewed the Congress of Russia's People's Deputies as an irrelevant structure, claiming the country does not [as received] such a control body any longer.

They demanded that President Yeltsin relieve Vitaly Mukha of his duties as head of Novosibirsk regional administration.

In Chita, a local division of the Democratic Russia movement held a meeting in support of the Russian president. The participants in the meeting have passed a vote of no confidence to the 9th extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies and demanded that heads of Chita regional administration and councils of peoples deputies immediately voice their support to the reform course pursued by the Russian president.

Analogous meetings in support of the Russian president were held in Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and Okha (Sakhalin Region).

Only one meeting in support of the continuing 9th Congress of People's Deputies was staged by activists of the local Communist Party organization in the town of Kamsk in Krasnoyarsk Territory on March 7 [date ..s received]. The slogans at the meeting were "All Power to the Soviets!" and "No To Yeltsin's Unconstitutional Decrees!".

Taking part in the meeting were nearly 300 people (in the town with the population of 31,000 people).

The participants in the meeting voiced their support to the people's deputies and denying their support to heads of the regional administrations.

Tula Committee on Support for Yeltsin

PM2903131593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Mar 93 p 2

[Article by Nikolay Matveyev, chairman of the Yeltsin support committee, under general headline: "Democratic Russia Rallies Its Forces"]

[Text] **Tula**

The committee was set up back in 1991 when Boris Nikolayevich announced his break with Gorbachev. A group of enthusiasts from the "Civil Initiative" Political Club issued a statement setting up the committee. We were then joined by loads of citizens who helped at elections and on the referendum, took part in rallies, and collected telegram signatures of support for Yeltsin when things were looking tough for him. And those signatures ran into tens of thousands. Then August happened. Everyone attended an open-ended rally. Later the committee thinned out. People left to join different parties. At a difficult time in 1992 when prices were rising and there was unrest, I, as committee chairman, issued a

statement to the local press that I would remain true to my position of supporting the president, and I asked anyone who supported this policy to respond. Twenty seven people did.

Now, following Yeltsin's statement, our committee is producing leaflets and issuing explanations. A headquarters has been organized. Even before the statement we had gathered together a bloc of democratic parties. This includes representatives of all democratic parties and movements, rallied around the president's representative in Tula Oblast. Sunday we organized the production of leaflets. I spoke live on Russian radio. We also managed to take an opinion poll Sunday. The overwhelming majority of inhabitants are leaning toward Yeltsin, despite all the difficulties. And those who had decried Yeltsin before the president's statement now support him. Frankly, the breakdown is as follows—some support Yeltsin the way they always have, others see him as guaranteeing the stability of Russian statehood, while others simply see him as the lesser of two evils. The Congress or Yeltsin? No, we will follow Yeltsin, we do not need the Congress.

It is finally time to consolidate democrats. Democrats who had been split are beginning to come together.

Poll Shows Support for Yeltsin, Reforms, Referendum

OW3003062493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 29 Mar 93

[From the "Utro" program presented by Sergey Lomakin and Inna Yermilova]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Lomakin] Now I will begin this part of the program with a review of public opinion based on a poll conducted by the Public Opinion Fund at our request. The questions asked concerned the congress. The first question: If you have been following the events at the congress, what feeling did it evoke in you: irritation?—34 percent; mirth?—7 percent; indifference or no emotions?—16 percent; or approval?—a mere 6 percent. [Video shows this information presented in a table.]

The fact that most Russians who were polled experienced irritation and mirth over the congress is not surprising. Something is surprising. Earlier, after the eighth congress, analysts predicted a certain indifference among the majority of the population to the results of the political battle. However they were wrong, thank goodness, because the ninth extraordinary congress decided the outcome of the political struggle; and the overwhelming majority of the country's population—this silent majority, as it is popularly known—unequivocally took the side of the president and reform.

Another question was asked: Which decision by the congress regarding the issue of power in Russia would you approve of: all power in Russia should be vested in the President?—33 percent; all power in Russia should be vested in the Supreme Soviet?—15 percent; the principle of division of power should be enacted in Russia?—25 percent; and 26 percent could not answer this question.

So if in an attempt to resolve the current crisis the people's deputies have decided on a significant redistribution of power in favor of the congress and the Supreme Soviet, public sentiment is diametrically opposed. Among those who saw the solution to the crisis in a redistribution of power, two thirds favored the president and only one third congress. But as you have seen, the situation changed again right after the congress. [passage omitted]

We have reported on questions concerning the congress. However, the next question was asked before the congress, but nevertheless was addressed to the congress. The following question was asked. Which decision of the congress concerning the referendum set for April would you approve of: hold the referendum at the proposed time?—31 percent; postpone the referendum until a later time?—15 percent; cancel the referendum?—25 percent; and 25 percent could not answer.

I repeat, this poll was taken before the opening of the Ninth Extraordinary Congress, and as you can see the results of the congress—at least I presume that accurate information is already available—have considerably changed the people's sentiments in favor of holding the referendum on 25 April. The referendum will be held, and I hope this congress has done the impossible—has awakened the political activity of the population. I think there are many people who will be surprised by the number of people who will turn out to vote on this referendum. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows 75 Percent Reject Congress

LD2903210593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to an opinion poll by the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion, carried out in Moscow on 29 March, the work of the extraordinary Ninth Congress of People's Deputies of Russia is approved by 14 percent of those polled and disapproved by 75 percent; 11 percent of those polled could not answer.

Commentary Views 'President's New Course'

PM2903114793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Mar 93 First Edition p 3

["Commentary" by Deputy Chief Editor Vitaliy Kovalenko: "President's New Course Set by Congresses of Deputies"]

[Text] What were they fighting for, what were they breaking up the furniture for and splitting the country into "democrats" and "red-browns," reformers and reactionaries? It was for that much-sought-after accord.

There has been much talk of late, the president noted in his speech at the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies, that the practice of adjustments to the economic course has not worked and that what is needed is a new reform course rather than adjustments. "You may agree with those claims or you may not agree, but one thing is for sure: The economic transformations need a strong social content. A new course and new, well-conceived, effective measures are certainly needed in this sphere."

Furthermore, the president agreed that "it is necessary to strengthen the government," to construct it out of cadre professionals, including candidates proposed by responsible political forces, parties, and public movements.

In other words, the president has finally rejected the absolute "the government is a team of like-minded people" formula and has gone for the option of a coalition government of professionals.

All that remains to be added to this is the group of decisions geared to the survival of industry and agriculture at home. Although, in the first place, they automatically stem from the need for a strong social content for the reforms—whatever way you look at it, most Russians still depend on the plant for their daily bread and the plant is their main source of social protection. Second, this group of decisions is, in effect, already recognized—in the form of the government's latest decisions aimed at preparations for spring sowing and of other national economic programs.

A great deal has indeed been said about the need for these adjustments. Although not recently, at least not since last April, since the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies, at which the two branches of authority clashed in earnest for the first time and the nature of relations between them began to be determined by the "either-or" of the ultimatum. In fact it was then that the enmity and the strife began, ultimately leading the country to the brink of civil war.

Yesterday the president essentially acknowledged as essential and useful essentially everything the deputies had been demanding of him all year.

How is one to regard this step? Particularly in view of the fact that only recently, 11 February, First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko categorically rejected similar demands by the Seventh Congress, calling them totally antireformist.

So, in view of what Shumeyko did, has the president decided to abandon the reforms?

No, of course not. Just as the farfetched and absurd accusations against the deputies of wanting to turn the country back are untrue. Indeed, you are scarcely going to demand of Congress ways of carrying out the reforms. But on what you must not do in carrying out the reforms it operates with 100-percent reliability. Remember Travkin's celebrated opinion concerning the Gaydar government?—It was fine in every way, in terms of qualifications and program, but it was the Russian people who turned out to be unsuitable?

The body of deputies rose to protect the interests of their voters, defending them doggedly, albeit not very skillfully.

So perhaps the president has finally come to terms with this fact, now that even the people closest to him have started peeling off? Realized that it was not the Congress that was against the proposed reform scenario, but the entire economy, the entire country, which has started to break up, and that there might soon be nothing left of the very space in which the reforms or whatever would be carried out.

If so, then Russia, for the first time in recent years, maybe, could encounter an optimistic scenario for its development. If you believe the president's statement, then, broadly speaking, there is no longer anything to divide the authorities. They must buckle down and work together. And that is what people want most of all today.

If only it were not for the "if." We have all been under the lash, repeatedly of late. So a second, pessimistic scenario cannot be discounted: The president's retreat in the face of Congress's demands is merely a tactical move, providing a breathing space, an opportunity to regroup and go back to the old option, the one rejected by life and by people.

Alas, life, unfortunately, gives this scenario just as much chance.

Political Issues

Rutskoy Article Views Nationalist Trends, Sovereignty

PM3003110193 Moscow NEW TIMES INTERNATIONAL in English No. 10, Mar 93 pp 14-17

["Abridged" reprint from Russian Academy of Sciences anthology FORUM of article by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy: "We Need Each Other"]

[Text] Today's reality keeps us permanently on edge due to newspaper publications, TV news and all that happens around us. The main set of problems is represented by the emergence of "hot spots" because they are a manifestation of troubles in the national relations sphere.

According to my calculations, there is a total of over 180 actual and potential "hot spots" on the territory of the former USSR with various degrees of civil unrest. Ethnic tension in the form of open hostilities has already reached Russia's borders and now, having crossed them, is spreading over onto her territory (Ingushetia, the Chechen Republic, North Ossetia).

The system of multilateral agreements, inclusive of the CIS Treaty, isn't working. More than that, the relations between the states which we call "the immediate

abroad" today, were built on mutual distrust from the very outset of their independent existence.

The disintegration of the USSR aggravated the problem of the "Russian-speaking population" and of the status of the army in countries that emerged on the territory of the former USSR. The struggle against "migrants," "occupationists" and others, assuming various forms, shifted from the plane of moral, psychological and social pressure to the state and legal level and is in many cases raised to the status of official policy.

A dangerous combination of seemingly incompatible tendencies is taking shape. The ex-Union republics carried on the struggle with the former omnipotent central power under the banner of the necessity to broaden their peoples' rights and of securing the right to national self-determination. Having come to power, the same forces not only began to profess the principle of territorial integrity, they started conducting a policy akin to a struggle for "racial purity" coupled with onslaughts on universal human rights. The situation in some Baltic states is undergoing a dangerous metamorphosis: nationalist passions are whipped up under the disguise of a struggle for democracy, while our Foreign Ministry complacently watches on, trying to "talk" Latvia into having mercy upon her "Russian-speaking" population.

We are facing quickening in the stream of refugees into Russia caused by many, including the above-mentioned, factors (today the number of refugees has exceeded 1 million people and it is growing daily). Among them there are people of diverse nationalities. The state must lay out vast sums of money to support and accommodate them. What's more, it gives birth to a factor of social instability felt in the political atmosphere. Sadly enough, these realities have not yet been fully realized by the country's leadership and the uncontrolled accumulator of explosive material can reach the critical mass. Unfortunately, social and ethnic tensions are growing in regions overwhelmed by ethnic conflicts.

Enter Mafia

What triggered these conflicts? The reason for them were common to a number of states of the "immediate abroad." The most important of them are: aggravation of the economic and political situation, border problems, traditional ethnic conflicts, violation of human rights, ill-thoughtout and uncontrolled migrations which took place in the past, the environmental crisis.

One more important factor also promotes the escalation of conflicts - this is the struggle between local elites and mafia-like groups assuming the form of ethnic conflicts. The circumstance which impairs settling such conflicts is their irrational character incomprehensible to an uninvolved onlooker. This limits the possibility to influence these kinds of developments from outside.

That people get used to the tragic nature of events is also very dangerous.

Some symptons of the oncoming danger are already observed in the Transcaucasia, North Caucasus, Moldova, Georgia, and in Tajikistan. I only name the most dangerous and obvious hotbeds of confrontation.

It's also clear that current controveries won't disappear in the near future, and that state and public organizations must do their best to settle them by peaceful means. All of us have to learn restraint, mutual understanding, and the art of compromise. A paradoxical situation arises: many newly born states, ex-Soviet republics, successfully establish friendly relations with many countries of the world, but can't come to terms between themselves. History has made all of us neighbours, we have been neighbours for centuries and we'll be neighbours in the future. The culture of interdependance is a prime necessity to our states, a sine qua non of survival.

Not Just a Large Country, But a Great State

The disintegration of the USSR has left in the latter's territory a number of states, the Russian Federation being the largest among them as to territory, size of population, scientific and technological potential. Russia has lived in the past, and is now living through great hardships, yet she goes along her path as a great power. In her ordeals, she has suffered considerable losses, yet she has largely preserved her colossal potential and her international authority backed by her economic might, cultural traditions and scientific achievements. Getting rid of stagnation tendencies which degraded our society from above, we must preserve our historical achievements inculcated in popular tradition. If we manage this, we will continue as a great power; if we fail, we'll leave the historical scene. I see nothing wrong in the desire to remain a great power. Being a great power is a result of advancement in the key branches of human activity. It's evidence to the fact that a nation has found its path among civilizations of the world. This has nothing to do with chauvinism. Pride for one's country is a natural and worthy feeling.

Russia is a sovereign state today. Her economic organism has beome more integral and her social and cultural landscape, smoother and better comprehensible. On the other hand, Russia has "retreated" from her former borders, losing many of her sea ports; many of her traditional economic and other ties having been ruptured.

We in Russia must take all this into consideration in search for the place our country is to occupy among the new sovereign states. We must embrace the whole range of relations, but we must give priority to Russia's own interests, striving for, within the limits of possibility, their overlapping with other countries' interests.

I believe that, in formulatig Russia's policy vis-a-vis the countries of "the immediate abroad," we must proceed from the premise that, apart from differently oriented interests, there are also factors dictating the necessity to consolidate all-embracing relations between these countries, the most important among these factors being the

historically determined interlacement of their economies, the problems of their comon "Union" heirloom traditional, cultural, scientific and other ties and the multinational character of their population.

Formulating the principles of mutual relations with countries which have emerged instead of the ex-Union republics, it's necessary to take into account that the steps we make today in this direction will determine the nature of relations with these countries not only in the near future, but in the remote future as well. These relations are only being initiated now, but they are going to be of great importance, and therefore they require circumspection, as well as mutual honesty, good will, a principled attitude and recognition of each other's lawful rights. Unfortunately, this isn't observed today. Too many accusations are hurled at Russia against the background of unrestrained praise for Turkey, Japan, the USA... I'd say it's immoral to reduce Russia's role in the history of peoples of the former USSR and the role of, I emphasize it, the former Russian Empire to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact alone. It's noteworthy that Russia, unlike a great many countries of today's "immediate abroad" and some republics inside her, doesn't abuse historical arguments in justifying her position. Such attempts must be avoided, because the ensuing disputes always assume a heavy and dragged-on nature. Yet Russia has something to counter her popular description as the "prison of peoples." Yes, Russia did wage unjust expansonist wars, but which nation or country hasn't? However, it will be extremely unjust to reduce our history to them alone.

Not To Build Dams

I often think over the question: is it possible to establish normal interstate relations and even to create a new close-knit alliance on principles differing radicaly in comparison with the Soviet Union? A rther close one, up to creating a unitary confederative state? Certainly, this isn't a task for the near future, but it's quite realistic. And in any event, establishing civilized relations will be a obligatory stage in this process.

This being so a new integration can start from a rather low level, even zero datum. Already today political practice goes to show that one cannot intercept the process of gaining sovereignty by the former Union republics half-way. The ensuing process must be carried through and, hence, it would be more sagacious to support these powerful streams, rather than to build dams on their way.

With those who are prepared for this integration can be realized at interstate level, down to the establishment of confederative relations; with those who aren't one should develop good-neighbourly relations.

The new type of ties and relations between the countries which formerly were the USSR must be built on the principles of mutual economic space. It's not only desirable but even necessary for Russia to base her formal relations with these states on the same principles as with any other country of the world.

We must get accustomed to this politically and psychologically new situation in which Russia's relations with ex-Union republics will be hence-forward relations between sovereign states with all the ensuing consequences. Trade and diplomatic relations, payments, the frontier and customs control must be carried out on the basis of these republics' soverignty. There mustn't be any "blockades," "sanctions," etc., which could serve as pretexts for laying blame on Russia. Russia has her own national interests which she must follow, using all her resources to the advantage of her people. No concessions to the country's interests are admissable.

A few remarks in this connection, concerning the idea of "transparent borders" actively discussed at various levels today. On the surface, this idea looks democratic and luring. Yet the question of to whom and for what our borders will be transparent is not an idle one. We uphold transparency for the sake of freedom of human contacts. But we know that the present openness and uncertainty at our borders daily causes the country enormous damage. They export from Russia whatever they want—suffice it to quote the example of Estonia which, having no deposits of non-ferrous metals, has become one of their greatest suppliers on the world market. Many other "undesirable" goods, such as weapons and drugs, are imported to the country through her territory. Russia is totally unprotected against industrial and any other kind of espionage. We don't want this sort of "transparency."

Sovereign Russia must have completely equipped state borders with all countries, regardless of her current relations with them.

It's too early so far to abolish state borders. The Russian leaders and citizens must unfailingly observe Russia's and her people's interests. We must also secure that these relations take on a normal form and that human rights, including freedom of travel, be observed in all countries.

To Protect the Rights of Russians

Demanding the observance of a normal frontier regime, we should remember that 25 million Russians and 3 million representatives of Russia's other peoples live outside the Russian Federation: 43.5 million of so-called "Russian-speakers" live in the "immediate abroad." In short, it's inexpedient to restrict freedom of travel both for "universal humanitarian" reasons and proceeding from the concrete situation in what once was the USSR.

And yet it must be noted that today it's the Russian citizens living abroad who need protection and not the other way round. The neighbouring republics must franky admit that they have no grounds to blame Russia in this respect. But working out and implementing a conception of protection for the rights of Russian citizens abroad in conformity with the norms of international law is an urgent necessity. A special concern is protection of economic rights of those ethnic groups

whose only historical motherland is Russia and who recognize her as such. One more special concern is introduction of the ecoomic responsibility of foreign countries for the fate of those of their residents who have decided to receive the Russian citizenship.

The social approach which has been thus far prevalent has suppressed the factor of a persons' national identity. The approach from the point of view of human rights implies the unquestionable esteem for it.

To Avoid a New Yugoslavia

The demand of natonal self-determination has become one of the most important ones in the pesent political situation.

However, this just demand plays a destabilizing role in today's political practice. If urgent measures are not taken, this will, in the near future, bring about a total confrontation over the national issue in the country, a second edition of Yugoslav-type developments on a larger scale and with more tragic consequence for the entire world.

In this connection, the urgent task today is to start a struggle with the dangerous stereotype deeply rooted in the mass mentality and according to which the right of nations to self-determination is interpreted exclusively as their right to create national states. This is precisely the nature of many such demands (by Germans of the Volga Region, the Crimean Tatars, the Armenians living in Russia, etc.) The danger of such demands is not duly appreciated.

The principle of creating national administrative formations within Russia has been a historical mistake whose destructive consequences have yet to be fully realized. It has no future for a variety of reasons, including those giving rise to the problems of "indigenous" and "non-indigenous" peoples, border problems, territories, status of such formations, etc. The mounting demands to create national states within Russia result in a growing opposition from the population on whose lands "encroachments" are made; ethnic claims are multiplied and are further whipped up.

The only solution possible in present conditions, promising the possibility to settle similar problems in the future, is to approach this problem from the point of view of individual human rights, to endow the demand of national rights with real weight, i.e. to really observe these rights in the cultural, religious, economic and other spheres. It's also necessary to take into account the psychology and specific economic biases of certain peoples.

Assessing the situation in the country, one should proceed from the fact that Russia is not an artificial but historically formed entity. It's a unique state as to its's size and its multinational character.

In the situation of disintegration of the USSR and declaring state sovereignty by former Union and autonomous republics, we must proceed from the idea of the country's sovereignty recognized by all citizens of Russia which, in our opinion, must be regarded as a unitary state of all peoples living on her territory.

We believe that building a state not on the principle of national statehood but on that of its division into administrative-territorial units is more fruitful, more in keeping with the world-wide practice and not contradicting Russia's historical experience. In our opinion, this principle has a future. If we follow it, this will allow our country to avoid national conflicts in the future.

At that, the transition to this system should be carried out in stages and must be accompanied by the establishment of new and the restoration of old economic ties, and large-scale cultural educational work. This transition can be carried out only by means of consolidating economic, cultural and administrative independence of both national and national-state formations, administrative regions and entities, so that they could obtain true rights as parts of Russia.

Some people in the former autonomies fear this prospect without any reasons at all.

If complete and consistent observance of national rights becomes a reality, the problem of national statehood, as it is conceived today, will lose its acuteness. The transition to dividing Russia into administrative-territorial units will become organic and devoid of conflicts.

This is precisely the basis for securing equal rights of peoples, regardless of their numerical strength, and for creating a genuine commonwealth of nations.

We have to admit with regret that the disintegrational processes which resulted in the crash of the USSR now also affect the Russian Federation. The state is faced with a real danger of disintegration with all the ensuing political, economic and social consequences. We have all reasons to believe that preservation of normal ties and relations within Russia is particularly important for the development of regions as a consequence of historical, economic and other interregional ties having long-standing traditions.

Under Damocles's Sword of Disintegration

On the other hand, destabilization of the situation in any of Russia's regions will immediately affect the whole country. A growth of tension is already observed in other regions as well. We have all reason to affirm that the range of social conflicts based on national factors has dangerously grown, and if the critical line is crossed (the danger of which seems to become more and more real), this may cause more serious consequences than those which accompanied the disintegration of the Soviet Union, primarily because the interests of these regions are much more painfully and closely connected with the age-old Russian territories.

One of the realities of our present life is the obvious weakening of Russian statehood. The role played by the stae in and its influence on society have diminished; vitally important institutions of statehood have grown weaker. This process was initiated by the struggle of certain social forces against the all-embracing role played by the state apparat which controlled practically all spheres of social and individual life for decades.

At a certain stage this struggle degenerated into a struggle with the state as such and led to anarchy and disorder in many areas of social life. This tendency is extremely dangerous, all the more so that society isn't duly aware of it as yet.

National rights are doubtless one of the most important components of human rights in general. The national factor includes many aspects of human personality: mentality, the ethno-cultural type, religion, social priorities, ideological bearings. Given all that, it's necessary to admit that protection of human rights in general, unavoidably presupposes protection of human rights of people precisely as representatives of a definite national community, since there are no abstract supranational human beings.

Let's ask ourselves the question: can former autonomies in the Russian Federation claim state sovereignty today, i.e., the same rights as Russia has? I think they can't. Russia is sovereign; not so her parts. It's inadmissible to make the Russian statehood and civic concord in the country objects of possible blackmailing actions. Autonomous formations won't be satisfied with sovereignty, they will seek new alliances and will find them.

All peoples inhabiting Russia and the former USSR raise the question of their national peculiarities, traditions and national self-awareness. The most numerous of the nation, Russians, have until recently remained the only ones unaffected by these processes. The situation is changing now. The rise of Russian national self-awareness is already a fact; it will unavoidably gain momentum and exert a tremendous influence on the situation in the country.

The responsibility for mistakes in the nationality policy and for crimes committed against a number of peoples is not infrequently laid on the Russian people. Complex historical events are far from impartially interpreted to the latter's disadvantage; present generations are blamed for real or ostensible faults by the leaders who ruled their ancestors' state. Of course, I don't mean nationalities as wholes, but in some regions there are forces professing such views, they play a very conspicuous role and affect the social and political situation there in the most negative way. Some politicans have made nationalism their banner, trying to come to power and retain it with its help.

The accusations of russification and anti-Semitism become louder and louder, which resembles the situation in the 1920s on the eve of such tragic events as the dispossession of peasantry and the mass repressions against the core of the Russian nation. The danger of such accusations is that they may give a second breath to the idea of "the Russian republic," which will mean a new stage of "national squaring-off of accounts" and a direct threat of civil war in the country.

After the disintegration of the USSR, and as Russia's sovereignty was consolidated, the demographic situation in our country radically changed; this first of all applies to the place and the role of the Russian people in society.

In the USSR the latter made up about 40 percent of the state's population. In the present Russian Federation Russians constitute over 80 percent of the population. Today no other people in the country can compare with Russians as to numerical strength.

Certainly this doesn't entitle Russians to a special legal status. The Russian Federation has been and remains a multinational state. The principle of equal rights for all citizens of a state, regardless of their national identity, must be unquestionably observed as one of the basic premises of a democratic society.

Yet the above peculiarity of the country's ethnic composition can't be disregarded in formulating social, cultural and political strategies. In particular, no efforts in economics can be successful without it. The policy of reforms can be successful and beneficial to the people not when it copies a foreign model, but when reforms are worked out and implemented on the basis precisely of this people's historical experience, traditions, business ethics and mentality. Russia's revival is possible only on this basis. Russia isn't a dwarfish state or a banana republic. Unfortunately, the situation is aggravated by the recently initiated scholastic yet dangerous disputes, for instance, whether the Russian nation at all exists. The notion "the Great Russian nation" has come into being and is currently rather popular. These discussions aggravate the already explosive situation against the background of the growth of other peoples' self-awareness.

The rise of the Russian people's national self-awareness shouldn't be interpreted as an upsurge of jingoism. Today no people in Russia, numerous or otherwise, having a national statehood or not, can be denied the right to national revival. Common approach to each nation and its rights is the obligatory condition for establishing genuinely equal rights.

We'll note to conclude that we have dwelt mainly on what disturbs us today in Russia's relations with the countries of the "immediate abroad." There are obviously a great many problems here, yet there are positive changes too.

Firstly, a centrist block is being formed and is gaining strength in the country. To my mind, it's distinguished for its well-balanced positions, including its stand on the nationality question.

Secondly, real and useful steps have been made in Russia on the state and interstate levels. In particular, this is the

creation of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries. The agremeents reached by the representatives of six republic create the prerequisites for raising the relations between them to a fundamentally new status. These decisions can become a step towards strengthening the representative power, parliaments of the CIS countries, a step in the direction of a law-governed state. Only consolidation of the legialtive power can guarantee observance of human rights and safeguard the people's vital interests.

We regard this event as a step towards real mutually advantageous cooperation between CIS countries. We can't cope with political and economic chaos, acting on our own. That this awareness is growing in our society and in the CIS member states is an inspiring fact.

Welfare Minister Wants Gaydar Return to Cabinet

OW2903135993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Minister Ella Pamfilova of people's welfare welcomes Boris Yeltsin's intention to bolster the social bloc in the Russian government. In the meantime, talking to an Interfax correspondent this Monday [29 March] morning, she expressed an opinion that mere changes in the Cabinet will hardly solve any social problems.

"We cannot talks about any determined social policy under the conditions of hyperinflation of this magnitude," she said. "We need opportunities to effect this today as much as yesterday." The minister has a positive view of possible changes in the Russian government. In the words of Ms Pamfilova, the government, certainly needs professional economists on board, while, she warned, without a solid concept to rely on, one can easily get entangled by the specifics, without fulfilling any the global objectives. Therefore, she called for inviting Yegor Gaydar back to the Cabinet.

Implications of Ministerial Changes Pondered

PM2903143593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 93 p 1

[S. Razin report: "Springtime. Ministers Are on the Move"]

[Text] There have been "substitutions during the game" in the cabinet of ministers. A presidential edict has dispatched Finance Minister V. Barchuk and Economy Minister A. Nechayev to the "substitutes' bench." Vice Premier B. Saltykov has been "demoted" to minister for science and technical policy. There may also be other changes in the government later, since in his television statement Yeltsin promised to sort out at least five ministers.

It is perfectly logical to assume that Premier V. Chernomyrdin, who inherited what was purely Gaydar's team, is gradually putting together his own team. At first he strengthened the government apparatus, bringing in reliable people. And now the stakes are higher. However, on closer examination, this version clearly won't wash—if only because the new minister of economy has still not been announced!

Various candidates are being mentioned for this key post, most often Ye. Saburov, whose cause is being pushed by "Civic Union," and B. Nemtsov, governor of Nizhniy Novgorod. It looks as though the president is intending to make a "goodwill gesture" toward the territories and centrists, who have recently expressed a readiness to support the president's line.

However, these changes would in no way weaken the reformers' positions. On the contrary, their influence on the president has strengthened, as can easily be seen. V. Barchuk, who all too clearly played along with the Central Bank's inflationary policy, has long been an irritant to the radicals. It is quite logical for Vice Premier B. Fedorov to take personal control of the Finance Ministry now. It looks as though the Gaydar crew is not particularly sorry to be bidding farewell to A. Nechayev too, who they think has clearly degenerated and has become a Gosplan [State Planning Committee]-type "obstruction" reluctant to see cardinal changes and is on the point of becoming a lobbyist for the "dinosaurs of the military-industrial complex."

Experts claim that V. Barchuk is going to become ambassador to Norway, and Nechayev will head the Russian Financial Corporation. Meanwhile B. Fedorov is meeting with Ye. Gaydar daily and together they are writing various papers directly for the president, behind the premier's back. According to eyewitnesses, the premier is extremely annoyed. But nevertheless, quite a powerful attack has begun against the Central Bank, Gerashchenko, and inflation. It looks as though all the rulers are going for broke...

National Salvation Front Registered at Justice Department

OW3003105893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The National Salvation Front, opposed to the president and the government, registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation on Tuesday [30 March].

An alliance among the Constitutional Democratic Party, the Revival Party, the National Republican Party, the Moscow branch of the Russian Christian Democratic Movement and other organizations, the front has 50 local committees, the Justice Ministry told to Interfax. The Russian Unity bloc represents the front in the Supreme Soviet.

The alliance is led by people's deputies Ilya Konstantinov, Mikhail Astafiyev, Gennadiy Savenko, Vladimir Isakov, Sergey Baburin, Nikolay Pavlov, Gennadiy Zyuganov (the communist party leader) and Valeriy Ivanov.

The front campaigns against "the policy of economic experiments" and stands for resuming economic planning and state control over prices. The alliance basically aims at gradually restoring a single state on the territory of the former USSR.

Some time ago, the RF [Russian Federation] Constitutional Court ruled that certain presidential decrees, banning the activity of the front's organizational committee, violated the constitution.

Military & Other Issues

Lack of Funds Hinders Dismantling Nuclear Submarines

OW3003101893 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0535 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent from the Transrosefir "Point on a Map—Kolskiy Region" program—recorded]

[Text] [Ye.B. Komarov, head of Murmansk Oblast administration] In speaking about the problems of Murmansk Oblast, one cannot help but mention the problems of the Northern Fleet. This is because the fleet's problems are shared by the oblast and its inhabitants. The fleet is fulfilling a nationally important role. It is combat ready, and it is prepared to carry out the task before it. Nevertheless, there are problems, particularly from the point of view of the utilization and dismantling of retired nuclear submarines.

Here we are at one of the plants of the Northern Fleet, where you can see several submarines. Their fate—considering what has already been undertaken, as well as the way out of the existing situation—still, to this day, has not been decided.

[Captain First Rank V.A. Miroshnichenko, director of the ship repair plant] The plant has the potential to quickly complete the first stage of the work—that is, the so-called preparation for the utilization of the vessels. Nevertheless, because of a lack of adequate financing and technical means, this problem has yet to be resolved.

[Komarov] Since we are talking about finance, today the fleet is committed to spending 1 billion rubles annually to keep these submarines afloat. Here, we also have the fleet staff, and you can understand the problems we are experiencing with the military staff. The fleet is forced to send officers, warrant officers, and sailors here, spending a very large sum of money to keep the ships seaworthy. At the same time, because of the lack of finance, the fleet is unable to repair and properly maintain active duty vessels. In this way we are damaging the fleet by affecting its combat readiness. If this problem were to be resolved, we could direct this money toward ship repair—in other words, fill our shipyards with work. This is one side of the issue.

The other side of the issue—and very aptly put—is that this is a state problem, and it should be addressed by the state. This is not the fleet's or the oblast's problem. It requires decisions at the government level, and I cannot say that the government has not been occupied with these issues. There have been many decisions adopted, but, to our great misfortune, there have not been any results. Nothing has been done to implement these decisions.

[Correspondent] But Yevgeniy Borisovich, the problem is also that, to this day, a place has not been found to store solid and liquid radioactive waste. Until such a place is found, it is not possible to dismantle these nuclear submarines.

[Komarov] Yes, that is a fact. Besides instructions from the government, the president, and the corresponding committees of the Supreme Soviet, the problem remains unresolved to this day.

[Correspondent] Are the reactors of these retired submarines still in working condition?

[Miroshnichenko] As of now, they are still not shut down and are being maintained at a certain level.

[Correspondent] Therefore, there is fuel here?

[Miroshnichenko] Yes.

[Correspondent] If only we were talking about these four ships, or even 24 of them, but there are far more than this.

Medical Research Under Way Aboard Mir Complex

LD3003095093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Gennadiy Manakov and Aleksandr Poleshchuk are continuing their work on board the "Mir" orbital complex.

According to information received from the Mission Control Centre, a series of experiments with the use of equipment developed by French specialists were carried out on Monday in keeping with the medical control plan and to receive additional data on the state of a human organisn at various stages of a space flight. The psychophysiological reaction and operational capabilities of the cosmonauts were studied. An overall assessment of human adaptation to the state of inponderability was carried out.

One more medical examination of the crew is scheduled for today. It includes several biochemical studies and the use of an ultrasound method to check the functions of

their cardiovascular systems. The cosmonauts are to carry out maintenance jobs on some board systems and modules in the course of the day.

The launching of one more "Progress" cargo vehicle towards the "Mir" orbital complex is scheduled for March 31.

Strategic Missile Tested for Possible Space Launch Role

PM3003105193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2100 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Report by Aleksey Shiryayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Shiryayev] In the 35-year history of the Plesetsk Cosmodrome, various types of launch vehicles have taken off from its launch sites. In all, over 1,500 launches have been carried out in this time. However, in the cosmodrome's history so far there has been no launch such as this one.

[A.V. Bal, deputy chief of the Plesetsk Cosmodrome] We are solving one of the scientific-technical problems connected with using missiles to launch space equipment. It is expedient not to just blow up missiles which are being withdrawn from operational readiness but to adapt them for economic purposes. A space rocket complex could be designed on basis of the RS-12-M strategic missile, which today is still in operational readiness but which could be used in the future to launch artificial Earth satellites.

Yeltsin Edict on Protecting Citizens' Savings

PM3003133993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Mar 93 p 2

[Edict No. 49 issued by President Boris Yeltsin "On the Protection of Russian Federation Citizens' Savings"]

[Text] With a view to ensuring the protection of Russian Federation citizens' savings and increasing their confidence in the country's banking institutions, I decree:

1. That it be deemed expedient to create a federal fund for insuring the assets of Russia's banking institutions formed by attracting investments (deposits) from Russian Federation citizens (hereinafter referred to as the Fund).

2. That the Russian Federation Council of Ministers and Government by agreement with the Russian Federation Central Bank elaborate within a month and submit for the examination of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet proposals for the formation of the Fund within the established procedure and for its activity, bearing in mind that:

The fund's assets are formed both through regular subscriptions from Russia's banking institutions which have the right to attract investments (deposits) from the population and through additional funds from the Russian Federation Republican Budget;

The fund's assets are spent on insuring the assets of banking institutions only in that part which is formed using the investments (deposits) of persons who are Russian Federation citizens;

Full or partial (differentiated depending on the category of the investors and the size of investments (deposits)) compensation is paid from the fund's assets to investors in banking institutions if their property claims [imushchestvennyye trebovaniya] cannot be met when banking institutions go into liquidation as a result of insolvency (bankruptcy);

The Fund's assets cannot be confiscated or spent on purposes not connected with its function.

3. That it be recommended to the Russian Federation Central Bank that it transfer to the Fund the payments made by the commercial banks in 1992-93 to the deposits insurance fund.

4. That it be recommended to the Russian Federation Savings Bank that it increase the interest rates on the population's time deposits.

5. That the Russian Federation Council of Ministers and Government prepare proposals for the sale in April-May 1993 of the assets of the Russian Federation committee for precious metals and precious stones to the sum of 400 billion rubles to implement the first urgent measures to compensate badly off categories of the population for losses from the devaluation of their investments.

6. That the Russian Federation Council of Ministers and Government in conjunction with the Russian Federation Central Bank and the Russian Federation Savings Bank prepare additional proposals for the mechanism and forms of compensating the losses of Russian Federation citizens as a result of the devaluation of their investments (deposits).

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin, Moscow, Kremlin, 28 March 1993

Regional Affairs

North Ossetian Leader Suspends State of Emergency

OW2903174493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian President's decree to invoke a state of emergency in parts of Ingushetia and North Osetia has been suspended at the Ossetian side's initiative. In a telephone conversation with his first deputy on Monday [29 March], the chairman of North Ossetia's Parliament Akhsarbek Galazov suggested that since the decree had

been hastily drafted by Presidential aides, it should be signed anew, having been amended harmlessly for North Ossetia's sovereignty.

Signed by Russia's President on Saturday, the decree presupposes the extension of the state of emergency in parts of the two republics until May 31 "because of the continuing aggravation of the situation" and subordinates local executives to an interim administration.

In an interview with Interfax on Monday, the vice-chairman said that it was that point in the decree that "had provoked a negative reaction among North Ossetians."

Ingush Vice President on Yeltsin Decree

LD3003160093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1435 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Nazran, 30 Mar—The leaders of the Ingush Republic rely a lot on the Russian troops, who "are in a position to ensure the necessary order," an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by the republic's vice president, Boris Agapov. In his opinion, the Russian troops should guarantee security and law and order in Ingushetia until local organs of the Interior Ministry and Security Ministry are established. The vice president noted that a letter had been sent to the Russian Federation Minister of Internal Affairs with a request to set up on the territory of the Ingush Republic a special patrol and guard battalion which would be made up partly of a number of representatives of Ingushetia.

Referring to the problem of Prigorodnyy rayon, Boris Agapov said that a highly realistic option for solving the problem of refugees and forced migrants in these complex circumstances could be to declare a special form of rule in Prigorodnyy rayon. In his opinion, only control by Russian federal organs in Prigorodnyy rayon could guarantee the security of the inhabitants until the situation is fully stabilized.

Says Refugees Return to Prigorodnyy Region

OW2903183393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ingushetia's Vice-President Boris Agapov declared: "The process of Ingush refugees' return to North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy region has started though it is not the way we would like to." In his interview with Interfax on Monday [29 March] he reported that currently the refugees are returning spontaneously, on their own responsibility and risk, because the mixed Ossetian-Ingush commission, formed in accordance with the agreement 'On Measures on Complex Solution of the Refugee's and Forced Settler's Problem,' has not started its work yet.

Agapov qualified the situation in the republic as "on the whole, calm." Responding to our Interfax correspondent concerning possible replacement of the Russian forces stationed in the zone of the state of emergency by the forces assigned to the Confederation of the Caucasian peoples, the vice-president answered that the republic's leadership "is examining this issue."

Ingushetia's Aushev on Regional Conflict, Moscow Congress

PM2903152593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 93 p 2

[Interview with President Ruslan Aushev of Ingushetia by A. Yevtushenko; place and date not given: "Criminals Have Finished What Politicians Started"]

[Text] [Yevtushenko] In the opinion of the leadership of the temporary administration of the zone under a state of emergency, one fundamental condition for settling the conflict is that the sides should admit their guilt for it having come about. Do you consider that confession would help to establish peace in the Caucasus?

[Aushev] Confession is, of course, a good thing. But I am sure that until those guilty for the bloodshed are identified, named, and punished—be they Ingush, Ossetians, or Russians—the enmity will not go away, and the conflict will not end. At the moment nobody can say yet who Aushev, Galazov, Ivanov, or Sidorov are. For that reason I was sincere when I shook the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet chairman's hand. But, I am sure that criminals only provoked the war. And it was the politicians who prepared the people for it and pushed them toward it. Their aim is to gain power for themselves using the "divide and rule!" principle, which is as old as the world itself.

[Yevtushenko] How many times at the present negotiations in Kislovodsk has the problem of the form of government in Prigorodnyy Rayon become a stumbling block? To what degree is this a matter of principle?

[Aushev] Yes, we are trying to introduce a special federal form of government in North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy Rayon while maintaining a state of emergency there. The Ossetian side totally objects to this. We, they say, are capable of ruling our territory ourselves. However, this is seen against the background of the main problem in resolving the conflict—the return of refugees. The overwhelming majority are Ingush from Prigorodnyy Rayon. Will they return if all power in the Ossetians' hands?

[Yevtushenko] Any special form of government is a temporary phenomenon. How, in your view should the territorial dispute between the Ingush and the Ossetians be resolved and who should resolve it?

[Aushev] Unlike many of my fellow citizens, I consider that the disputed territories, that is Prigorodnyy Rayon and Vladikavkaz's right bank, now legally belong to

Ossetia. And that it is necessary to resolve these problems using the law, not by force of arms. There is in existence a law "On the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples." It has been adopted at all levels of the Russian state. It also speaks of territorial rehabilitation. Who should return to the Ingush the land which has been taken away from them? Those who have taken it. The USSR and Russia, as the Union's successor, have repressed us. As they say, it holds all the cards.

[Yevtushenko] Apart from the territory in the conflict zone, Ingushetia has one other territory which it is disputing with the Chechen Republic. These are the border Sunzhenskiy and Malgobekskiy Rayons. Does it not seem to you that soon, when Chechnya sets about establishing its own state border, blood may also be spilled in this area?

[Aushev] No. President Dudayev is a sound politician. He and I and our peoples have good, good-neighborly relations with each other. We belong to one people, the Veinakh. We have not spilled each other's blood. It is the right of each republic to leave Russia or remain within it. But I am sure that when it comes to the crunch concerning our borders with Chechnya, we will be able to resolve this question peacefully with our brother Chechens.

Postscript

Ruslan Aushev gave the following reply to a question about his attitude to recent events in the country:

"The power struggle which has developed in Moscow is leading the country into deadlock. If there are not elections to resolve the confrontation between parliament and the president, complete chaos will ensue. What is more, Yeltsin and Khasbulatov should agree on elections to the Supreme Soviet and for the presidency being held no later than the beginning of next year. It will be necessary after this to adopt a new Constitution. The Congress as such has become obsolete."

"In general," Aushev added, "the events of the last few days have once more convinced me of the necessity of withdrawing Army subunits and explosives from Ingushetia. The attitude toward them in the republic is negative as it is. Then there are these terrible events. I consider that after 31 March—the end of the state of emergency—there should be no troops on Ingushetia's territory."

Chechen Leader 'Prepared To Cooperate' With Opposition

LD3003131193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuev]

[Text] Groznyy, March 30 TASS—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said in an address to the people published on Tuesday [30 March] that he is prepared to cooperate with any opposition forces for the sake of the republic's future.

He pointed out that "Chechnya urgently needs to be incorporated into the world economy on the basis of independence."

However, this is impossible without stabilizing the internal political situation. "With this condition in mind, I am prepared to cooperate with any representatives of the intelligentsia, with any opposition party or movement", the address signed by Dudayev reads.

The president called on the Chechen people to display tolerance and refrain from "certain political moves", which could destabilize the tense situation in the republic. Dudayev obviously referred to strikes, which are becoming more and more frequent, and the mass protestations against the current Chechen authorities, which have been anticipated in Groznyy since a long time.

Chechen Foreign Minister Addresses Letter to Kozyrev

LD2903174893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1518 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy March 29 TASS—Foreign Minister of Chechnya Shamseddin Yusef has written an open letter to the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, emphasising that "our conscience will be clear before history and future generations, if we find in ourselves enough courage to cast aside political ambitions and establish contacts between us and ensure equal mutually beneficial cooperation."

Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef, 52, is a member of the Chechen diaspora in Middle East countries. Competent sources in Groznyy assert that President of Chechnya Dzhokhar Dudayev has appointed him to this post on the advice of the king of Saudi Arabia.

Lately the parliament of Chechnya has criticized its foreign minister, accusing him of being too close to Eastern policy.

At the same time, according to a majority of parliamentarians, Chechnya needs, above all, normalization of relations with Russia. But Shamseddin does not even know the Russian language which does not strengthen his position either.

The department headed by Shamseddin, due to an influx from Middle East countries, has been nicknamed the "Ministry of Bedouins" in Groznyy. Apparently, under these circumstances Shamseddin Yusef has chosen the open letter style with the aim of somehow justifying his unsuccessful attempts to establish a diplomatic dialogue with Russia.

Paper Reports From Rostov on Furor Surrounding Cossacks

PM2903134593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 93 First Edition p 3

[Vadim Ogurtsov report: "Picketing the Soviet"]

[Text] After discussing President Yeltsin's appeal, the Rostov Inner Soviet sitting concluded that some of his provisions could violate the Constitution and Russian laws, but it decided to put the matter to a session only after receiving the relevant conclusions from the Constitutional Court.

The second point on the agenda was far more alarming, since cossack subunits from all over were assembled in the square in front of the House of the Soviets. And the Inner Soviet had before it the rather categorical demands from the Don Cossack Council of Hetmans to immediately convene a session to examine the implementation of the main documents adopted on the cossacks by the Russian Supreme Soviet, the president, and local organs of power. In the event of this demand not being met, the Don cossacks would start to implement it independently.

Invited to attend the Inner Soviet were V. Kaledin, hetman of the Don cossacks, and members of the board, who had a very impartial question awaiting them. The point is that deputies had just received a photocopy of the following order from G. Tsykin, hetman of the Rostov cossack district: "...A campaign [pokhod] is announced and a special regime [osoboye polozheniye] introduced... In connection with the creation of the interim Don government, hetmans at all levels upon receipt of this order shall immediately submit demands to the heads of local administrations and soviets of people's deputies to fully and unconditionally fulfill the Russian Federation president's edicts regarding the cossacks. In the event of these terms not being met, administrative buildings shall be placed under control and guard within three days and hetman rule organized on their territories."

According to evidence supplied by Internal Affairs Administration organs, similar documents have also appeared in certain other cossack districts and were written in the same uniform organizational style. The cossacks' desire for a revival is entirely understandable, as is the desire to restore traditional forms of self-rule, economic management, culture, and everyday life. But there have also been attempts to issue illegal edicts, to retrieve "their own" from the clutches of justice, and to use scare tactics against traders, customs officials, representatives of the authorities, or journalists who are not to their liking.

Despite the fact that Hetman Kaledin dissociated himself from the "too amateurish" author of the order and immediately revoked it, the debate on a cossack revival was very heated. Unfortunately, the attempts by oblast soviet deputies—almost all of whom can trace their ancestry back to the cossacks—to explain that hasty implementation of the president's 15 March edict was simply impossible, had no effect. First, it is not yet on the statute books. Second, it will require very serious and specialized lawmaking work in conjunction with the cossacks. Third, ratification of the new laws that have long been awaited by the cossacks is the prerogative of the Supreme Soviet rather than than the oblast soviet. Consequently, the cossacks' demands for "the immediate provision tomorrow of what was promised by the presidential edicts" were at the very least naive.

At the same time, the deputies, Oblast Soviet Chairman A. Popov, Administration Head V. Chub, and leaders of oblast power structures have been talking in tough, unambiguous, and entirely convincing fashion about the very grave consequences which could result from the alarming separatism [samostiynost] being shown by the cossacks, who are, in addition, patently staking a claim to outright power. And it would seem that the hetmans, who had hastily summoned a large cossack rally, also grasped this when the Inner Soviet justified its decision to devote its next session in late April to this most serious problem. But later, as if scared by the silent condemnation of ordinary cossacks who had been called to Rostov for nothing, the hetmans again started insisting on the "immediate implementation of the edict."

The oblast soviet chairman convincingly explained the situation to the ordinary cossacks ranged on the square with the Don cossack banner. But the Council of Hetmans, after subsequently conferring, decided to... continue the picketing.

...And envoys from remote cossack districts are currently approaching Rostov.

International Affairs

Morozov: Assurances Required From U.S., Russia

LD3003130793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Ukraine's Defense Minister Colonel-General Konstyantyn Morozov has returned from Brussels to Kiev. He was taking part in a meeting of defense ministers of the NATO countries and of this organization's partner countries. Reporting this today, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service said that in Brussels the leaders of military departments examined issues of cooperation in the maintenance of peace in the world and examined past and future cooperation on issues of defense.

We remind you that yesterday Konstyantyn Morozov delivered a speech at the meeting of defense ministers of NATO countries and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. He noted, in particular, that one of the main goals of Ukraine is its nonnuclear status. Touching on guarantees of Ukraine's security the minister stressed that a U.S.-Russian treaty, which is agreed with Ukraine, and a subsequent statement by the UN Security Council with assurances of respect by the United States and Russia for Ukraine's independence and its territorial integrity, the inviolability of its borders, the nonuse of force or threat of using force, and the inadmissibility of economic pressure as a means of achieving political aims, is necessary.

National Salvation Front Holds 'Unauthorized' Rally

OW2803173893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The National Salvation Front held an unauthorized rally in Sevastopol. The rally gathered 1000 people. It was attended by members of the Crimean legislature, Aleksandr Kruglov and Sergey Shuvaynikov. Its slogan was "Sevastopol, Crimea, Russia". Participants waved the flags of Russia and the Soviet Union. They carried Lenin's and Stalin's portraits.

Speakers proclaimed victory over their political opponents: Ukrainian nationalists, who had attempted to convene a congress of Crimean Ukrainians in the city. Besides, speakers urged the Crimean population to express no confidence in the Crimean parliament, in Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and in Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk. Since the Sevastopol City Council imposed a moratorium on meetings, the police tried to stop the rally. The demonstrators dispersed on their own.

Chernomyrdin Meeting To Decide Black Sea Ships' Fate

LD2903222693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1745 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Valentin Vernodubenko and Anatoliy Kuznetsov]

[Text] Nikolayev, 29 March (TASS)—Ukraine Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma has familiarized himself with the situation at the Black Sea shipyard. The largest dockyard in the Ukraine is at present in a difficult situation: Unfinished ships stand in the dockyard and the customers who traditionally ordered large refrigerating trawlers have proved insolvent.

In the course of getting acquainted with the enterprise, Leonid Kuchma stressed that it is necessary to build and sell ships. According to Yuriy Makarov, the yard director general, up to five tankers with a displacement of up to 60,000 tonnes can be built here annually. According to the workers with whom the prime minister talked, the yard management is not enterprising enough. It is necessary to set up new economic ties and to expand conversions to a greater extent. There are great opportunities for this. The workers at the dockyard have already mastered the production of diffusion devices that were formerly bought for hard currency.

Leonid Kuchma went on board the "mothballed" aircraft carrier "Varyag," on which almost 70 percent of the construction work has been done, and which awaits its fate. The prime minister said that he will decide the fate of this and other ships at a meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Paris Club Ends Visit, Agrees To 'Unblock' Credit

LD2903102993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] On 27th March, Paris Creditors' Club delegation ended its two-day visit to Ukraine, having met with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and some top-ranking government, department and parliament officials.

The delegation, which was headed by France's state counsellor, Jean-Claud Trichet, agreed to unblock credit channels to Ukraine and stated its readiness to mediate in normalizing Russian-Ukrainian financial relations marred by a dispute over the former USSR's external debt and its division among the successor states.

The delegations's head said that he was very much satisfied with the fruitful negotiations he had in Kiev and sounded optimistic with regard to Ukraine's prospective relations with the G7. He further said his delegation's mission to Kiev would be amply regarded as having achieved its goal.

Kuchma on Paris Club Negotiations

OW2903183293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "We should think not about small by multibillion credits to be used for procurement of technologies and equipment," the Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma declared on March 29 in Nikolayev. He spoke at a conference with presidential representatives and representatives of local councils of Ukraine's 12 provinces.

The Premier reported that during the visit of the delegation of the Paris club countries-creditors to Ukraine, held on March 26-27, the parties solved all issues regarding the payment of Ukraine's share of the former USSR debt and opening of credit lines granted to the republic. Kuchma believes that these negotiations helped to solve the issue concerning supply of the Ukrainian agriculture with fertilizers.

The Premier pointed out that the previous Ukrainian governments have not fulfilled their obligations given to the agricultural workers and the cabinet headed by him will implement all promises given to the village.

Morozov Views Military Doctrine, Arms Sales

AU3003105693 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Mar 93 p 3

["Excerpts" of news conference by Defense Minister Konstyantyn Morozov with unidentified reporters at the National Press Club in Kiev; date not given: "Our Armed Forces Are Able To Defend Ukraine"]

[Text] [Question] Mr. Minister, what are the chances of Ukraine joining NATO?

[Morozov] I cannot say that this question has been discussed at any level. However, I can describe our state's position regarding it as a positive attitude toward expanding and intensifying cooperation with all structures of that organization. Ukraine needs advisory assistance, because this structure and the countries participating in it have a large experience of military development.

[Question] Are there plans to create a Central-Eastern European security zone extending from the Baltic to the Black Sea? How do you feel about this?

[Morozov] My attitude toward any associations that have, as their underlying principle, the need to lead nations to peace, accord, and understanding is normal. However, our legislation does not envisage Ukraine's joining any military unions or alliances. The nonaligned status proclaimed by our state and Ukraine's military policy, that is being formulated, limit our interests to the Eastern European region. Ukraine's Armed Forces must defend our borders, our independence, and our integrity.

[Question] Is there a variant of Ukraine's military doctrine as a nuclear state?

[Morozov] It is not such a difficult task to specify the content of a military doctrine. The main thing is to determine our political position in this question. It is a prerogative of the Supreme Council. The Supreme Council has already discussed a draft military doctrine once. As all of us understood, the main question has been and still is Ukraine's attitude toward nuclear weapons. The documents on the ratification of START I and of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty have already been submitted to the Supreme Council and, I think, they may be ready in the very near future. It will be a definitive stage: The Supreme Council will determine the content of the main—political—part of the military doctrine. The military-technical part is subordinated to it, and its content specifies how main military-political principles will be technically implemented. The Ministry of Defense is an executive structure that will be ready to adjust the military-technical part to the political principles.

[Question] Can you compare the draft military doctrines of Ukraine and Russia?

[Morozov] It is hardly possible to do this with certainty. I am not quite sure that we know all variants of the Russian doctrine. Those variants that were published and that our specialists and people's deputies held in their hands indicate that the political trends of our two states coincide on principal issues. Our military doctrine ensures absence of any territorial claims upon any states. I do not remember seeing such a thesis in any variant of the Russian military doctrine. I have not seen it, but this does not mean that it is not there. There are no great differences between the doctrines, with the exception of the main question—that Russia is clearly adopting a doctrine in accordance with its status as a major nuclear power.

[Question] What can you say about Ukraine's defense capability? Are its Armed Forces able to repulse an attack by any aggressor?

[Morozov] Yes, absolutely. They are able to do so. It is for this purpose that we are building our Army. From the first days of its existence, it must be more or less capable of fulfilling, at first, some limited tasks and, in the course of its development, the entire range of tasks. By now, we have had our Armed Forces for more than a year, and they are capable of fulfilling their specified tasks.

[Question] The previous draft military doctrine was criticized as excessively pacifistic. Do you agree? Will the second variant of the doctrine satisfy our "hawks"?

[Morozov] If I had been a pacifist or an advocate of such views, I would have resigned from my post. In addition to the fact that these are not my convictions, I cannot be a pacifist because of my post. The tasks of the Armed Forces lie in their constant readiness to defend the state. There cannot be pacifistic views here. We must build the theory and practice of our state's defense.

I do not think that the previous draft doctrine was pacifistic or that the next one will be distinctly aggressive. This would be impossible. It is a political document, and it reflects the state's general political principles.

[Question] Is the Ministry of Defense requesting more budgetary allocations this year than it did last year? Will this only include means for keeping the Army or also for modernizing it?

[Morozov] The sums that the Ministry of Defense is requesting would suffice for both maintaining the Army and modernizing it, however, who will give us as much as we are asking for? Last year, when the budget was formed, there was still no definite information on the structure or numerical strength of our Armed Forces. That is why the Supreme Council allocated capital that was only sufficient for maintaining the personnel and for paying for the fuel, material property, and food-stuffs. Our Armed Forces cannot remain in such a state for another year; it is necessary to modernize its technology and to develop our defense industry. That is why we suggest that some programs be financed this year to enable us to replace old technology and to continue studies that have already been started in Ukraine.

[Question] Does Ukraine export the weapons that it uses to equip its Army?

[Morozov] Is Ukraine different from all other states of the world? Does it not need dollars? We must get rid of old weapons and develop new ones with the money earned in this way. However, I keep saying that we cannot raise political demands on this issue and, in accordance with interstate norms for regulating the process of selling weapons, we must approach it in a responsible manner. Just like those countries that are involved in international terrorism and those where armed conflicts are in progress.

[Question] Does the sale of weapons contribute much to the military budget?

[Morozov] No, very little, so far. With this money, we buy housing for our servicemen. It is, therefore, a pity that this does not amount to much, because, otherwise, we would have provided everybody with housing.

[Question] To whom are we selling weapons?

[Morozov] These are numerous states to which Russia, the United States, Great Britain, Germany, and France are also selling weapons.

[Question] Consequently, to those countries that want to arm themselves to the teeth?

[Morozov] This is none of my business.

[Question] Is Ukraine buying weapons? In particular, submarines that we do not manufacture ourselves?

[Morozov] We have not bought submarines yet—it would require a lot of money. We have trade ties with countries of the former Warsaw Pact. We have weapons in common that were manufactured in the former Soviet Union. We are rendering assistance to one another in the form of barter exchange of spare and assembly parts. However, this is not a decisive part in maintaining our combat readiness.

[Question] We heard that Russia had offered a proposal: If Ukraine allows it to use military bases in Sevastopol, then Russia will agree to lower its prices for oil and gas. How do you feel about this?

[Morozov] We are better off procuring gas elsewhere. My personal position is that there should be no other military forces on our territory. If we sacrifice something on this issue today through agreements, future generations will have to pay.

National Affairs

Crimean Supreme Soviet Session Begins

Deputies Differ on Crisis

MK2703115493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Mar 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report: "Question About Crimean President Will Not Be Discussed. Regular Crimean Supreme Soviet Session Begins"]

[Text] The agenda of the Crimean Supreme Soviet's 11th session includes 36 items, in particular, draft laws "On the Association of Citizens" and "On the Election of the Crimean Supreme Soviet." Although some deputies insisted that the draft law of the Republic of Crimea "On the Election of the President" was effectively ready (there was no substantial objections in the Supreme Soviet commissions or at the 13 March parliamentary hearing) the bill was not included in the agenda even after two parliamentary votes. Nor was it salvaged by a remark by Nikolay Bagrov, Crimean Supreme Soviet speaker, who said: "If we fail to pass this decision, we will put ourselves in an embarrassing situation."

Deputy Iskander Nemetov, while noting approvingly that Christian holidays in Ukraine were made days off, raised the question about festive days off in Crimea, having in mind Muslim holidays, and also suggested that 18 May (the day when Crimean Tatars were deported in 1944) should be proclaimed a day of mourning. That proposal was added to the agenda.

Among the agenda items that the current session is to consider there are such question as: "On Signing the CIS Charter by a Plenipotentiary Delegation of the Republic of Crimea" and "On the Adoption of the Statute on Citizenship of the Republic of Crimea." It was also decided to submit a bill to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet

requesting that the Ukrainian law "On the Representation of the Ukrainian President in the Republic of Crimea" be repealed because, in some deputies' view, it is at odds with the Crimean Constitution. The session will form a delegation to attend a meeting of the heads of states of the CIS which is to be held on the initiative of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Deputy Sergey Shuvaynikov said that Crimea's incorporation into Ukraine in 1944 [as published] was unlawful and proposed on behalf of the Russian Party of Crimea, which he heads, that an all-Crimean referendum be conducted to ask people "Are you for a peaceful reunification of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol with the Russian Federation?" The deputies, however, did not support their colleague.

Deputy Aleksandr Kruglov said: "We cannot stay aloof from what is going on in Russia, and we should give our support to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and express our disapproval of Boris Yeltsin personally and his policies." Nikolay Bagrov replied: "We are not entitled to interfere in the affairs of another state, to make assessments of any actions either by the Supreme Soviet or the president of the Russian Federation."

A stormy discussion at the plenary meeting was prompted by the draft decree "On the Allocation of Land for the Resettlement of Deported Citizens." After a prolonged discussion the decree was approved. It says, in particular: "In order to resettle deported citizens and provide them with the necessary conditions, it is essential to allocate 3,500 hectares of land. A number of the republic's regions have been resolving this question in a positive fashion. But the requirements for allocating plots of land in [illegible] resort cities have not been fully met, which negatively affects the implementation of the program for bringing back deported citizens and creates tensions in these and other regions of the republic." The Supreme Soviet decreed that the Alushta, Yalta, Feodosiya, Kerch, Sudak, and Dzhankoy City Soviets of People's Deputies should, jointly with the agencies concerned, allocate and reserve tracts of land according to resettlement quotas and, as deportees arrive, promptly and without hindrance provide them with plots of land and sites for the construction of houses.

Speaker on Session, Russia

OW2803101693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, Nikolay Bagrov, said he was not sure whether he would campaign for the presidential office it were instituted by the Crimean Republic [sentence as received].

Talking at a press conference in Simferopol on Friday [26 March], Bagrov said that he had changed his negative attitude toward the introduction of a presidential office in the Crimea.

In commenting on the deputies' refusal to include the issue "On the President of the Crimean Republic" in the agenda of the session, he opined that the parliament ought to address it.

He expressed concern over the development in Russia, in particular, "over lack of respect for the foremost democratic institutions of state power." He also pointed to a danger of similar developments in Ukraine.

Mr Bagrov supported the decision by Sevastopol City Council to declare moratorium on all kinds of political activities.

Commenting on the ongoing session of the Crimean parliament, Bagrov said he was satisfied with its performance, noting it has already addressed half of the issues on its agenda, with priority being attached to the economic problems.

In the meantime, the deputies of the Crimean parliament resolved to adjourn their plenary sessions on Friday to continue working in committees and commissions until April 15.

Nationalist Congress Stresses Defense of Statehood

LD2803154993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] The Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists believes that steps in defense of our statehood should be Ukraine's reaction to the present political crisis in Russia. The leadership of this organization stands for the state and national interests at present to be put above [words indistinct] by all political and public associations of Ukraine.

Kravchuk Appoints Yevtukhov First Deputy Premier

LD2903192793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk has issued a decree appointing Vasyl Yevtukhov as acting first vice prime minister of Ukraine. Ihor Yukhnovskyy, who earlier occupied this post, had submitted his resignation.

Presidential Adviser Calls For Moratorium on Protests

OW2903183093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [27 March] Nikolay Mikhalchenko, head of the presidential internal policy service, called on

all parties and movements in the country to declare a moratorium on all activities which might destabilize the situation.

As the political and economic situation becomes increasingly tense, his appeal says, "the activities of certain political groups frequently detonate conflict ... In trying to cash in on social tensions they resort to political actions that make the situation explosive in some areas."

Mikhalchenko emphasized that it would be inadmissible to have society divided into hostile camps. "The only way to proceed is to look for a compromise in a cooperation of political forces, to consolidate Ukraine's statehood." The head of the presidential service called on all parties and political movements "to support the decision of the Sevastopol City Council and join a moratorium on strikes, rallies, marches, and other forms of political activity which might destabilize the situation in the city and society as a whole."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Experts think that the statement of the head of the presidential internal policy service was prompted by the increase of separatist movements in the Crimea, in particular the activities of the local Russian-based opposition National Salvation Front branch. This coalition of left-wing communists and national patriots presses for restoration of the Soviet Union.

Presidential Adviser Assails Kuchma Cabinet 'Corruption'

LD2703221093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1410 GMT 27 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa, 27 March—Valentin Simonenko, would-be premier who is now adviser to the president of the Ukraine on socioeconomic matters, has started an open confrontation with Premier Leonid Kuchma and his cabinet by declaring that Kuchma's government is living through its last days and accusing the cabinet of corruption. To support his claim, Simonenko mentioned the conflict around the creation of a free economic zone in Odessa, saying that even before the creation of the zone a behind-the-scenes carving up with a preference for foreign capital had already began there. According to Simonenko, this carving up started during Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Israel, and some high-ranking officials paid a lot of money to buy the prime minister's instruction on temporary government commission for the creation of a free economic zone in Odessa.

These statements by the president's adviser (who was formerly mayor of Odessa) are reported in the weekly SLOVO. The newspaper writes that Simonenko is extremely offended by the fact that after Fokin's dismissal it was Kuchma who was appointed as premier and not him, and that in private Simonenko claims that after the present government's fiasco the president will give the job to him. The president's and premier's reaction to this outburst by the adviser is not known yet.

Kuchma Analyzes Agriculture at Conference in Nikolayev

LD2903230693 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1303 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Valentyn Vernodubenko and Anatoliy Kuznetsov]

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received] Nearly 1 trillion rubles [R] are allocated this year for Ukraine's agriculture. Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma decided to see for himself how these multibillion subsidies are performing, and therefore went on a trip through agricultural regions on 27 March.

Leonid Kuchma summed up the results of his trip through six central and southern oblasts of Ukraine on 29 March at a regional conference in Nikolayev, which was attended by the president's representatives from 11 oblasts, the Republic of Crimea, leaders of ministries and departments. [passage omitted]

Ukraine is to pay R400 billion to Russia and Turkmenistan monthly for oil and gas at a time when the national bank of Ukraine has only 2 billion on its account. In many ways, this is because Ukrainian enterprises are continuing to supply products to their Russian partners without levying prepayment, thereby providing them with credit. The money remains in Russian commercial banks.

In conclusion, the prime minister said that after the meeting with the Paris Club members, large credit lines will be opened for Ukraine. But [hard] currency must be used to buy new technologies, equipment, and medicines, but not [food] products. It is envisaged that the farms will be supplied with seeds and herbicides by 10 April.

Yuriy Karasyk, minister of agriculture and food supply, made a speech dwelling on new price formations which should ensure parity of prices under conditions of severe inflation; on the effective use of preferential credits extended to the countryside; and on the importance of reforming forms of ownership through shareholding. He particularly emphasized the importance of a thrifty use of irrigated lands, the expansion of their area, and above all, (?in risky farming). In implementing the national program of agricultural machine-building, we must ensure the coordination of regions' efforts, and a greater and more decisive participation of partly loaded enterprises; those undergoing conversion must be ensured.

Kuchma on Current Economic, Political Issues

LD2903204693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By correspondent Sergey Fateyev from Ukraine, including recorded interview by Premier Leonid Kuchma; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The month of March, the first spring month, is nearing the end, and the most pressing concern for the government of Ukraine, as for many others, is the countryside.

[Fateyev] The countryside has so far not received the real priorities and privileges promised to it. Huge imbalances in prices of industrial and agricultural products put even the best farms on the brink of bankruptcy. And yet the biggest problem is the lack of fuel. Despite Ukraine's insolvency, Russia is prepared to be forthcoming, although ... [sentence incomplete]

[Kuchma] For the past three days, oil has not been supplied from Russia, because, as they seem to tell me, there was a major breakdown in an oil pipeline somewhere near Saratov. But now I think that we at least have common understanding with Russia's Premier Viktor Stepanovich, and I am very grateful to him. If Ukraine carries out the sowing and yields a good harvest, then Russia will also have, as it were, what Ukraine will grow and then process. It will have bread, and other things too. So I think in this respect we have a common task with Russia, and there is no point in one driving the other into a corner.

[Fateyev] Answering a question on his attitude to the events at the Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow, Leonid Kuchma emphasized that he would not like to see something similar happening in Ukraine. With regard to a recent report on a statement made by a former Ukrainian vice premier to the effect that Kuchma's government is allegedly living through its last days in office, the Ukrainian premier noted: Whether it is an insinuation or not, there is no foundation whatsoever to this. The people, particularly in the countryside, trusted and supported the government, and did not want to see squabbles in the top echelons of power, either in Ukraine or in Russia.

Vice Premier Ioffe Meets Miners in Lugansk

OW3003124693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Vice-Premier Yuliy Ioffe has declared that the decline in production has reached an enormous scale. At a Monday [29 March] meeting in Lugansk with miners and mine managers he stressed that the cabinet inherited the economy in a critical condition. However, in five months it has solved to a certain degree the problem of oil and gas supplies from Russia, normalized money circulation and restored control over government property.

The head of the miners' union Aleksandr Mril said that the union managed to agree with the government on several questions, such as additional payment for seniority. Still he said the question of holding a general strike in the industry on April 2 remains open.

A spokesman for the production association Krasnodonugol Nikolay Podgorny demanded indexation of wages at coal mines and freeing from taxation bonuses and emergency payments such as for funerals.

Entrepreneurs Establish National Assembly

OW3003123893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At their Congress in Kiev last Monday [29 March], Ukrainian entrepreneurs set up an assembly and elected its chairman Valeriy Babich, the leader of the council of industrialists and businessmen at the Presidential office.

Addressing the forum, Mr. Babich warned the government against disregarding the private economic sector, without which there is no way to cope with economic, political, and social tasks.

The Parliament's vice-chairman Vladimir Grinev, speaking at the congress, stressed that "only free enterprise could lead Ukraine out of the economic crisis". He was critical of the idea of equal state and private properties. In his view, when the economy is restructured, "the state sector should be a donor for the private sector and should shrink as shagreen leather".

The chairman of the Parliamentary commission for economic reform and management Vladimir Pilipchuk voiced the view that the current power structures in the republic were interested in the economic situation to get worse so that the communist economy would return.

In his view, "a massive well-planned onslaught is being mounted against Ukrainian free enterprise to suffocate it". Pilipchuk censured Kuchma's cabinet for the excessive licensing of export and for slowing down privatization. He also criticized the National Bank for the absence of a fiscal policy.

Belarus

Kebich: 'New Kinds of Relations' in CIS Urged

OW3003110193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1039 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vyacheslav Kebich, Prime-Minister of Belarus, has confirmed his governments intention "to look for new kinds of relations in the CIS framework." Speaking at the morning session of parliament Tuesday [30 March] he reiterated his call for creation of an economic union of CIS member states which would pursue coordinated budgetary, currency, monetary, crediting, and customs policies and a manage a joint emission center.

Kebich said that the CIS has played a positive part in the life of peoples in the defunct USSR.

"Transportation and most factories are somehow functioning," he stated.

On the other hand, a mechanism has to be set up in the CIS framework which would supervise the implementation of agreements, above all in the economic sphere. The prime-minister suggested setting up a coordinating center of the economic union headquartered in Minsk. The center could be headed by representatives of the union member states, ranking at least as vice-premiers.

The Belarusian premier criticized the country's Popular Front whose leaders want the country to abandon the usual markets in the former USSR and try to export the Belarusian products westward "where the spheres of influence have long been established."

He called on the deputies "to reject the political ambitions of theoreticians who are out of touch with life" and give the government special powers to pursue a new economic course.

Further Kebich Comment on CIS Economic Union

PM2603153793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 93 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev and Boris Soldatenko: "Prime Minister V. Kebich Favors Economic Reform Within CIS framework"]

[Text] Moreover, Belarus intends to examine the issue of joining the Commonwealth collective security system.

Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich announced the possibility of establishing a new union at a meeting with leaders of the Belarusian Republic's largest industrial enterprises. According to him, this understanding was reached in Moscow when, after the CIS heads of government meeting, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Sergey Tereshchenko, and Vyacheslav Kebich held additional talks and reached full consensus on this issue.

It is expected that a group of experts will gather in Minsk to elaborate an outline for the union. After which it would have to be approved by the republics' parliaments. According to the Belarusian premier, an economic union between Russia, Kazakhstan, and the Republic of Belarus presupposes the reciprocal removal of customs barriers standing in the way of goods, the maintenance of a unified credit and monetary system, the coordination of interest rates and the size of budget deficits, and standardized food prices.

Moreover, having touched on the problem of military organizational development in his speech to a conference of chairmen of local soviet executive committees, Vyacheslav Kebich announced that he would have to come back to the issue of the republic's participation in the CIS countries' collective security system. It is well known that Belarus has not signed the CIS Collective Security Treaty.

However, regarding the republic's declared policy of adopting permanent neutrality, in the prime minister's opinion this is unlikely to exist in an unadulterated form even in many West European states. "So, from the viewpoint of the republic's national interests, we will have to look at this foreign policy problem again," Vyacheslav Kebich noted.

Shuskevich Confirms Neutral, Nuclear-Free Status

LD2903193793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Belarusian national center for strategic initiatives East-West has circulated a report stating that the concept of neutrality conflicts with the basic interests of the sovereign Republic of Belarus.

Stanislav Shushkevich, head of the Belarusian parliament, has rejected this opinion. Speaking at an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet, he confirmed his adherence to a neutral, nuclear-free status for Belarus.

Adviser Favors Membership in CIS Collective Security

OW3003112293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1042 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus should join the CIS collective security system and economic union. This was reported to Interfax by an advisor of the Belarusian prime-minister Nikolay Skorynin. He stressed that membership in the collective security treaty and economic union meets the supreme national interests of his country.

He expressed the idea that conversion should not be rushed thoughtlessly. Only a dilettante can say that the process can be carried out fast. In the opinion of the advisor, the numerous munitions plants in Belarus can fulfil orders from other CIS members as well as foreign

countries. The defense industry can turn out unique goods and earn well, Skorynin said.

Armed Forces To Move To 'Second-Stage Reorganization'

PM2603151793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 93 p 1

[Valeriy Kovalev report under "From Our Information Bureau" rubric: "Belarusian Army: Reform Continues"]

[Text] Minsk—Speaking at a republic conference-cum-seminar for chairmen of local soviet executive committees, at which the issues of military organizational development, among others, were examined, Belarusian Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy briefed those present on the progress of reform in the republic's Armed Forces.

Among other things it was announced that the Republic of Belarus Government has approved a program of second-stage reorganization of the Belarusian Army. Under this program, the total size of the Armed Forces will fall from 115,000 to 87,000 men by the end of 1993 and will approach the optimum level. It is planned that, after reprofiling, the two military schools that exist in Belarus will be able to supply 84 percent of the republic Army's requirement for officers.

Arms Exports To Make Up Shortfall in Army Budget

PM3003103193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 93 p 1

[Valeriy Kovalev report under the "From Our Information Bureau" rubric: "Belarus Sells Arms. Out of Necessity"]

[Text] Minsk—Funds earmarked in Belarus' 1993 state budget will meet a mere 45 percent of the republic Armed Forces' requirements. It is planned to acquire the additional sums for maintaining the Army via the export of surplus military hardware and arms. This was announced by Gennadiy Danilov, chief of the Republic of Belarus Council of Ministers Administration for Questions of Citizens' Rights, Social Security, and Defense Work.

In his words, on the whole it is armored hardware and firearms from the quotas established for the republic by international agreements which are being delivered abroad. And only to those countries where no combat operations are under way and where there is a stable atmosphere. For this reason, Belarus has refused supplies of arms to Armenia and Tajikistan.

Missile Base To Be Transformed Into Meat Processing Shops

WS2903121093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] A missile base which is not far away from Maloritsa, Brest Oblast, is being adapted for peaceful civil purposes. It is possible that sausage shops will be organized in the former base's quarters. The Complex company from Brest, specializing in the establishment of meat processing shops, will locate one of its production complexes here. Seasoning for sausages could be grown on the plots close to the former missile base.

Defense Ministry Criticizes Officers Union's Stance

PM3003102593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 93 p 2

[Valeriy Kovalev report: "BZV [Belarusian Association of Servicemen] Has Reared Its Head Again: Belarusian Defense Ministry Press Center Describes Its Activity as Nationalist and Extremist"]

[Text] Minsk—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported (see the 3 March issue) the appeal made to parliament by Belarusian Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy for depoliticization of the Army to be intensified. That was occasioned by the fact that members of the Belarusian Association of Servicemen (the Belarussian acronym is BZV) were advocating the creation of a Baltic-Black Sea Union instead of the CIS and were intimidating society with a farfetched threat from the East.

And now the BZV has again been unable to contain itself. The association's council has adopted and issued an offical appeal to the republic's leadership. In their opinion, the main cause of the Republic of Belarus Armed Forces' lack of readiness to defend the country is the fact that a considerable section of the officer corps does not accept the task of defending sovereignty as its moral duty, and this is connived at by certain officials of the Republic of Belarus Defense Ministry who discharge the "functions of agents of influence of a foreign power."

The Republic of Belarus Defense Ministry Press Center recently issued a statement in this regard in which it once again described the BZV's activity as political, nationalist, and extremist, the main point of which is to falsify Belarus' history, propagate distrust in officers of non-Belarusian nationality, and inflame anti-Russian sentiments. While calling itself a sociopolitical organization which does not pursue political ends, in practice the BZV shows itself to be nothing more than an appendage of nationalist, extremist parties and movements.

Moldova

'Drastic Changes' Expected in President's Cabinet

OW2903135493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As Interfax has learned from well-placed sources in Moldova's leadership, there may be drastic changes in the team of President Mircea Snegur soon. The President's chief adviser, professor Ion Borshevich, is expected to be Moldova's Ambassador to Ukraine.

The office that Mr. Borshevich has held will be done away with. Instead, the President intends to have four state advisers: on home and foreign policy, on military affairs, and on social and political problems. He also plans to set up at his office a post of ambassador for special assignments at the rank of state adviser.

Envoy Says Russia Opposes Further Conflict in Dniester

LD2903204793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1423 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 29 Mar—Russia in no way whatsoever wants the situation in the Dniester region to be tense. This was stated by Russian Ambassador to Moldova Vladimir Plechko in the newspaper KISHINEVSKIYE NOVOSTI.

The diplomat believes that in no circumstances should a renewal of the conflict be permitted. He assured residents of Moldova that he will do his utmost to maintain good mutual relations between the peoples of Russia and Moldova. Residents of Moldova will be culturally enriched if they retain Russian alongside the state language, the Russian ambassador noted.

Dniester Official Discusses Security, Recognition Issues

AU2803200293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1750 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 27/3/1993—Dniester Region is the last bridgehead of Russia towards the Balkans, declared Vadim Sevtov (Vladimir Antiufeyev), the Chief of the Ministry of Defense of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic in an interview offered to the newspaper BALTIYSKAYA GAZETA. Dniester Republic is "well stocked with special information services. Against us acts the Romanian Information Service which has more than 3,500 people, the security machine of Moldova, having at its disposal more than 1,500 people, the Ukrainian Services of Investigation and MOSSAD which acts through Ukraine", affirmed the former Deputy of the Judicial Police from Riga, presently the Chief of the Security from Tiraspol. In connection to the commander of the 14th Army, Lebed, Sevtov-Antiufeyev declared that the latter betrayed him and he supports Yeltsin's views which are considered unsuitable to the present government of Sangheli", explained the Minister of Security from Tiraspol, pointing out that this is why there are attempts to compromise him and other representatives of the government of Smirnov. In connection to the problem of International Recognition of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, Sevtov Antiufeyev said that "we are already recognized by Abhazia and Macedonia. We will force Russia to recognize us, too".

Over 60% Favor Yeltsin as Russia's Leader

OW2903144693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sixty six percent of those polled by Moldova's national institute of sociology favor President Yeltsin as Russia's leader. Eight percent chose vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy, 26 percent preferred the Congress of People's Deputies.

Asked whether a possible armed conflict in Russia would threaten the security, independence, and sovereignty of Moldova, 53 percent of the respondents said that such a threat could well be. Twenty seven percent do not rule it out, 12 percent believe such a threat is unlikely, and 10 percent precluded such a possibility.

A total of 46 percent think that if Rutskoy takes power, Dniester leaders will provoke a new armed conflict. Twenty seven percent are sure that the government in Tiraspol will set new terms at the negotiations on a peace settlement and 22 percent believe that their positions on a federal structure for Moldova will remain unchanged.

Romania Denies Joint Exercises Planned With Moldova

PM2603141193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Mar 93 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report under the "From Our Information Bureau" rubric: "No Romanian-Moldovan Exercises Planned"]

[Text] The Romanian Ministry of National Defense has denied reports by newspapers and Dniester region radio that joint Romanian-Moldovan military exercises are planned on Moldovan territory, ITAR-TASS reports.

The Romanian side's statement notes that no agreements exist between the two states' armies on the basis of which such events could be conducted.

Parliament Speaker Comments on End of 'Fall Session'

MK2603140493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Mar 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Tago report: "Fall Session Ends in March. It Has Given No Satisfaction to Parliamentarians"]

[Text] The marathon session that has been going on for several months crossed the finish line in the second half of March. This prolonged work by Moldova's parliament has not brought the expected results. The deep crisis caused by President Snegur's Christmas message, which ended only in February with the resignation of speaker Alexandru Mosanu and a number of presidium members from among the supporters of the Christian Democratic People's Union, has put parliament out of action for a long time to come. The original agenda was revised at the proposal of new chairman Petru Lucinschi, who tried to end the session as soon as possible and take a break so as to prepare thoroughly for the next one.

At a press conference in Chisinau on results of the session, Petru Lucinschi did not hide his disappointment and said frankly that the session had not brought any particular satisfaction either to him or to other parliament members. He enumerated the major laws adopted at the session without going into a detailed analysis of the documents. The speaker understands that there is nothing special to boast about: The list of laws adopted is too short; there are no guarantees that they will be enforced; the contradictions among the intransigent parliamentary factions have gone too far; the crisis in legislative power has become a reality in the republic. The draft constitution, the main document the speaker hoped would be adopted, did not make it even past the first reading. In contrast to others, Petru Lucinschi appears to be an optimist when he says that a nationwide discussion of the document should help overcome the differences between the factions; at least he told the press conference that he hopes for that, and he also spoke against the Social Democratic Party's proposal about the advisability of adopting a provisional constitutional law. Petru Lucinschi said that even without that the republic has too much that is merely provisional, and moreover there are indications that Moldova too is a provisional state.

The ongoing nationwide discussion of the draft constitution rather suggests that the contradictions will hardly be overcome. The published draft hardly contributes to achieving national accord in society; it substantially aggravates contradictions between supporters and opponents of unification with Romania and leads to the polarization of interests and opinions. There are plenty of examples. At the same press conference a number of journalists—supporters of the National Front—carried over from the parliament meeting hall a debate about what the people in the republic should be called and what language they speak. They were outraged when parliament deputy chairman Victor Puscasu, replying to a blunt question, said just as bluntly that he speaks Romanian but considers himself to be a Moldovan. At the press conference National Front supporters speculated on the notions "the Romanian people" and "the Romanian language," but they did not succeed in convincing the parliamentary leadership, which sides with the parliamentary majority, who think that the people living in Moldova are Moldovans and that this territory does not belong to the Romanian people.

Petru Lucinschi used the opportunity to state once more that there are no serious contradictions between the legislative and the executive branches in general and the president and the speaker in particular. The speaker made it clear that the Moscow power conflict model is already history in Chisinau and that it cannot be repeated in any form. He stressed that he could get along with any competent person regardless of his political views, convictions, and other factors. He also denied allegations that had filtered in through the opposition press that the parliament chairman and the prime minister of Moldova had tried, behind the back of the president, who was on a visit to India, to resolve political questions, and met with separatist leaders of the Dniester area. The speaker said that the decision about the meeting in Noviye Aneny was made jointly with the president and the meeting itself took place at the request of Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the self-proclaimed republic's Supreme Soviet. As for the details of that summit, for obvious reasons nobody went into them. Evidently, it discussed mainly economic matters whose solution is in the interests of political leaders both on the left and right banks of the Dniester.

Concerning the actual problems and the status of the Dniester Region, there are plenty of disagreements and boundless scope for work to be done here. The contradictions have gone too far and too much time has been lost to return to the original status quo allowing for mutual agreement and compromise to be reached. The Moldovan parliament chairman is pinning some hopes on a recently formed commission, which he heads himself. In includes 28 members and is divided in two basic groups: on the Dniester Region and on defining the political status of concentrated settlements of the Gagauz. How fruitful the commission's work will be, the near future will show. It is known that the commission is to prepare by the next session fundamental proposals on a final settlement of the conflict. The only problem is that in Moldova a negative attitude has developed to such commissions. There have been many, but they have accomplished very little. True, at that time the situation was somewhat different: Conditions were different and the leaders were different.

Hardly anybody today will venture to name the reasons the existing problems have not been resolved. They should rather be seen in their entirety and not in isolation. The main reason presumably lies in the activity of the Moldovan supreme legislature itself, whose inconsistency in decisionmaking has aggravated the situation in the republic.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Chairs Security Council Meeting

LD2703200793 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0200 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Chaired by Nursultan Nazarbayev, a meeting of the Security Council of the republic took place on 25 March. Opening the meeting, the president said that from now on this council will be a constitutional body: the most important issues of foreign and domestic policy of the republic will be examined at it, and decisions will be taken which are bound to be fulfilled throughout the territory of Kazakhstan.

The meeting discussed measures for further implementation of the resolution of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 4 December 1992—On raising the level of responsibility of the functionaries of state management bodies for the situation in discipline, public order, and security. There was an exchange of views, summed up by Nursultan Nazarbayev. A minuted decision was adopted on the issue discussed.

Taking part in the Security Council's session were Chairman of the Supreme Kenges Serikbolsyn Abdildin; Vice President Erik Asanbayev; Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko; members of the government; and heads of a number of parliamentary committees.

Dependence on Russian, Uzbek Fuel To Continue

LD2603183493 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 0000 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] An AEN correspondent was told at the Kazakh Ministry of Power Industry and Fuel Resources that in 1992 Kazakhstan extracted only 8 billion cubic meters of the 1.8 trillion cubic meters of gas prospected to date in the republic. Because of this low level of extraction and an obsolete production base, Kazakhstan is experiencing a severe shortage of natural gas for the needs of the national economy. To overcome it, it would be necessary to produce at least 27 billion cubic meters annually. This may be achieved not earlier than the year 2000, if the program of radical reconstruction of the gas complex recently drawn up by the government can be implemented.

Meanwhile, for the next six or seven years, Kazakhstan will remain substantially dependent for fuel on Russia, which supplies about 17 billion cubic metres and on Uzbekistan (2-3 billion cubic meters).

Supreme Soviet Approves Agenda Items for 10th Session

LD2703130393 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0000 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Yesterday, a session of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, chaired by Serikbolsyn Abdildin was held. Issues related to the preparation of the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet were examined.

It has been decided to put the following items on the agenda: Draft laws on the status of judges in the Republic of Kazakhstan, on auditing in the Republic of Kazakhstan, on citizens' medical insurance, and also confirming as non-valid the laws on Leasing, the Basic Principles of the Foreign Economic Activity of the Kazakh SSR, and Concessions in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The same decision has been made in relation to a number of draft laws concerning amendments and additions to a number of currently valid enforceable enactments.

10th Session Opens

LD3003082693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0746 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Arkadiy Rotmistrovskiy for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata March 30 TASS—The 10th session of the Kazakh Parliament opening here on Tuesday [30 March] is expected to consider about seventy problems.

The issues to be debated at the session include some 25 draft enactments on state construction, economic, social and legal problems. The preliminary agenda also covers issues of providing material and technical assistance to Kazakh agriculture, a government report on the current economic situation in the republic and on relations with CIS member-countries.

It was also proposed that the session discuss the use of various funds answerable to the parliament, the activities of the national and other banks, the implementation of demonopolisation and privatisation programmes, and measures to refund damages caused by nuclear tests to residents of the Semipalatinsk, Pavlodar and Karaganda regions.

Kyrgyzstan

Republic Leaders Show Support for Yeltsin

LD2903125493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0347 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Soon after Boris Yeltsin had made his address to the peoples of Russia, Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev made a statement unequivocally supporting the course of the Russian president, describing him as a guarantor of the advancement on the path to the democratic reform. Speaker of the Republican Parliament Meritkan Sherimkulov sent a cable to Russian Federation [RF] Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, calling for his RF counterpart to show wisdom and restraint and to avoid actions that may put democracy in jeopardy. In his interview with a correspondent of the Republican Information Agency, Topchubek Turgunaliyev, chairman of the political

council of the Erkin Kyrgyzstan party, which means in translation "Free Kyrgyzstan," also stated his support of the stance of President Yeltsin, stating that—I quote—if one night Boris Yeltsin is ousted in Moscow, the same night there will be a coup in Kyrgyzstan—end of quote. [passage omitted]

Israeli Delegation on Familiarization Visit

LD2903094893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek March 29—A get-acquainted visit by an Israeli delegation to Kyrgyzstan, lead by minister of economics, science, and technology Shim'on Shetrit, has come to a close. The Israeli representatives met with leadership, scholars, and businessmen of Kyrgyzstan during their one-day trip. Agreements of intentions were signed. The delegation flew to Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan today.

EBRD Approves 'Strategic Program' for Republic Aid

LD3003085493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Voronkov]

[Text] London March 30 TASS—A strategic programme for aiding Kyrgyzstan has been approved by the board of directors of the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The bank's leadership has agreed that the national economy of that former Soviet Republic remains under the influence of centralised structures, is over-specialised and largely dependent on import trade. Hence, the bank's efforts should be focused on technical aid to the most important economic sectors of Kyrgyzstan, possessing a definite export potential into which direct foreign investments could be made.

The main areas of cooperation include the financial and power- generating sectors, the mining industry, the agroindustrial complex, the transport services and telecommunications. The European Bank also plans to help Kyrgyzstan's efforts to switch Kyrgyz defence enterprises to civilian rails and to find foreign partners. This will be part and parcel of the bank's aid to Kyrgyzstan in its endeavours to implement the programme of privatisation and to restructure the economy.

Tajikistan

Government 'Closely Following' Events in Russia

OW2903141693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan has been closely following developments in Russia, "hoping that political unrest there will give way to stability and more vigorous democratic reforms", the Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov has stressed in an interview with Interfax. He recalled that 1993 marked 125 years since Tajikistan had joined the Russian empire of its own accord. "Such long-standing ties in all spheres of life - in Mr. Olimov's opinion - show that the destiny of Russia means a lot for Tajikistan". He also made a reminder that even before the start of the RF [Russian Federation] Congress of Deputies, the Tajik Parliament's chief Imamali Rakhmonov had voiced confidence that "reason would prevail in relations between the Parliament and President of Russia."

Mr. Olimov wished that "Russia would remain an example of tolerance on any issue" since it "had always been a cementing link in the CIS and in the Collective Security Treaty".

He thanked President Yeltsin "for his firmness concerning the consolidation of the external borders of the CIS countries and the reconstruction of the Tajik economy, ruined by the civil war". He stressed that "Russia had always got priority in Tajikistan's foreign policy, and his country has confirmed that timed and again [sentence as received]

Popular Front Militants Block Return of Refugees

OW3003112993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1042 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [28 March] militants from the progovernment Popular Front in Tajikistan did not let some 300 refugees return to their homes in Khatlon region. Witnesses claim that when the militants heard that the refugees were returning to Turkmenistan state farm, once a stronghold of the Islamic Renaissance Party, they started beating up the men and raping the women. Only interference from the authorities stopped the violence.

In an interview with Interfax the chairman of the local administration Faizullo Kuvatov described the incident as a misunderstanding provoked by drunken men. Answering a question on the future of the refugees and guarantees of their security, Kuvatov said that he cannot give such guarantees even about himself.

Last week Popular Front militants blocked about 10,000 refugees keeping them for three days under open skies in the rain. Eight persons were killed out of blood feud. Parliament and government members had to interfere to stop the conflict.

According to the local authorities, there are some 20,000 refugees in the capital Dushanbe. All of them are to be returned home. Since March 18 63,000 people have been sent home.

U.S. Envoy Pledges Assistance in Curbing Trafficking

LD2903172693 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Tajikistan Minister of Internal Affairs Salimov has received Mr. Escudero, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Dushanbe. During the conversation, Salimov briefed the head of the U.S. diplomatic mission on the return of the republic's internal refugees to their permanent places of residence, and on the measures being taken by the country's law-enforcement bodies against drugs trafficking and the illegal arms trade. Concerning the latter issue, Escudero stated the readiness of his country to render assistance to Tajikistan, which will include sending qualified specialists in the relevant field to the republic. [passage indistinct]

Deputy Premier: People Reject Islamic Fundamentalism

PM2903150993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Mar 93 First Edition p 7

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA/ITAR-TASS report: "People's Front Has Done Its Job"]

[Text] The People's Front of Tajikistan has become an exclusively political organization—members of its armed formations will switch to service in the Armed Forces and the republic's National Security Committee and Ministry of Internal Affairs.

M. Ubaidullayev, Tajik deputy premier, has announced that the People's Front has completely carried out its purpose of restoring constitutional power in the country and will now tackle sociopolitical and ideological work among the population. Our people, the vice premier noted, reject Islamic fundamentalism, which in Tajikistan has shown its true face in practice. We are proceeding to build a democratic, secular society.

Vice Premier Sees No Danger of Spring Offensive

OW2803122193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's first vice premier Mukhammad Said Ubaidullayev said in an exclusive interview to Interfax that 700 more Russian troops will arrive at the Tajik-Afghan border in the period from March 25 through April 10 to reinforce the border guard units deployed there.

In the same interview he confirmed that Tajik ex-vice premier Davlat Usmon, who is also deputy chairman of the Islamic Revival Party, recently visited Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. In the words of Ubaidullayev, Usmon crossed the Tajik-Afghan border under an assumed name, using false credentials.

According to unofficial reports, currently operating in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region are up to 12 armed groups of the irreconcilable opposition.

Asked whether he expects the militants of the irreconcilable opposition to launch a spring offensive, scheduled for mid-April, with the goal to proclaim the Pamir Independent Islamic republic, Mr Ubaidullayev said he did not see any such danger. (According to the information provided by the Tajik National Security Committee, on April 17, the militants of the Tajik armed opposition are completing their three-month course of training in special camps - IF [INTERFAX]).

The vice minister emphasized that he relies on the CIS collective security agreement, where Tajikistan is a signatory, which provides for armed assistance by the Commonwealth armed forces in the event of violation of the Tajik-Afghan border from the south or an attempt at changing by violence the existing government system. In addition, he said, "there is a firm agreement with some of the countries to the effect that they will immediately bring in their forces if such provocative activities take place." In the words of Mr Ubaidullayev, the Tajik defense ministry has at its disposal over 100 heavy armed vehicles. Besides, he said, special units of the republic's National Security Committee and of the interior forces positioned at the Tajik-Afghan border "will no longer maintain neutrality, as they did under the preceding government, and they will prove by deeds their adherence to the ideas of democracy rather than fundamentalism."

Uzbekistan

Tashkent Oblast 'Twinned' With China's Hunan Province

LD2903170993 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Tashkent oblast in Uzbekistan and China's Hunan province with its population of more than 60 million have been twinned. The oblast mayor's office has reported that this will be the basis for expanding business links. Projects for bottling mineral water and juices, packing dried fruit, and manufacturing beer, garments, and food for fish farming are to be established in Uzbekistan in conjunction with the Chinese partners. Uzbek towns are to have Chinese restaurants. Last year China ranked first in Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover. The agreements with Hunan province will enable still further strengthening of the republic's business links with China, where the results of economic reform are proving attractive to the business community of Uzbekistan.

Iranian Envoy Praises Karimov's Tajikistan Peace Moves

LD2603191493 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1214 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Tashkent, 25 Mar [date as received]—Iran supports the efforts of Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan, aimed at stabilizing the situation in Tajikistan, Mussa Hashemi Gulpoyagoni, charge d'affairs ad interim of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Uzbekistan said in an interview to the government newspaper NARODNOYE SLOVO, issued in Tashkent. "We support the United Nations sending its representatives to Tajikistan to help create peace and stability here, that is why we are ready to cooperate with international organizations to this effect, as well as with all the countries in the region," Mussa said.

Armenia

Commission Confirms Draft Constitution

OW2903170293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The constitutional commission to prepare the republic's Constitution, headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, has confirmed a draft constitution developed by the commission which takes into account amendments and notes which were received from deputies.

Interfax has learned that the head of state thinks that "after adopting the Constitution, new early elections both for the presidency and parliament are essential."

Political observers think that the president's statement was a "noble move." They note the fact that despite the increase in Ter-Petrosyan's authority recently, he strives for maximum agreement with the opposition on issues concerning the approval of a Constitution—even a significant reduction to his time in office.

Experts think that one of the reasons for the change in Ter-Petrosyan's position on the issue of new elections was the current political crisis in Russia.

The president's spokesman, Aram Abramyan, confirmed the point of view expressed earlier in the press service's statement on the events in Russia, saying that the current political crisis in Russia was for the most part caused by "constitutional confusion." In conversation with an Interfax correspondent he expressed the hope that the "Russian leadership would find a way out of the situation in favor of democratic changes." The president's spokesman was of the opinion that the most realistic way would be through adopting a new Constitution of Russia.

According to Abramyan, those in Armenia hope that Russia remains a stable, democratic state, which continues along the road of economic reform and the creation of a democratic civilian society.

Radio Reports Fighting in Nakhichevan, Nagorno-Karabakh

NC2903131293 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1200 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service reported that Yeraskh in Araratskiy Rayon was hit with various types of weapons from Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic at around 0100 today. Preliminary reports indicate that one citizen was injured. The shelling also caused material damage.

Last night Azerbaijani National Army subunits shelled Sarigyukh and Sevkar in Idzhevanskiy Rayon; Khachik in Yekhegnadzorskiy Rayon; and Vazasgen in Krasnoselskiy Rayon. There are no reports on casualty figures. In all cases, Armenian border guards returned the enemy's fire and forced them to halt firing.

The rest of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border was relatively calm.

Azerbaijani National Army units launched a number of large-scale attacks against Nareshtar, Charektar, and Akhdavan in Mardakertskiy Rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh last night. The Armenian self-defense forces, which had already consolidated their positions in these liberated villages, successfully repelled all enemy attacks.

No casualty figures from the battlefront have been received.

Positional battles are still being waged along the battlefront near Mardakert. Both sides have losses. Five freedom fighters were martyred, and 20 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed.

Reports from Stepanakert indicate that a relative calm prevailed in the other regions of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and along Lachin humanitarian corridor.

Attacks on Lachin Corridor

NC2903161493 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Tension is increasing in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan's leaders are using all their resources and every opportunity to solve the problem through armed force. The enemy is deploying reinforcements on the battlefronts.

Azerbaijan's military units have failed to change the situation in clashes in the past month, but they have not abandoned their usurping intentions. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces [AAF] have suffered many casualties and lost a large quantity of military equipment on every battlefront, mostly in Mardakertskiy Rayon.

There has been no serious fighting on the Mardakertskiy battlefronts since 25 March. The fighting has mainly taken the form of exchanges of fire. NKR self-defense forces maintained their effective control on the strategically important heights they captured in earlier clashes. No serious incidents have occurred in the border areas in Martuninskiy, Askeranskiy, and Gadrutskiy Rayons, but tension prevails.

The main military operations are near the humanitarian corridor in Lachinskiy Rayon. We reported earlier that the Azerbaijani Military Command Headquarters deployed reinforcements and a large quantity of military equipment in areas near the corridor. It is not necessary to explain why the additional forces are being deployed.

but we believe it is our duty to report that Azerbaijan failed in the past to block the vital corridor. [passage omitted]

The AAF units launched a large-scale attack on the corridor last night. The enemy used dozens of tanks and armored vehicles. As usual, the onslaught began after a wave of artillery fire. Four of Azerbaijan's MI-24 helicopters fired on NKR self-defense positions, but the defenders obstructed the attack and inflicted many casualties on the enemy. AAF units are maintaining their attacks. Additional reinforcements are being deployed in the area from other rayons in Azerbaijan.

Military operations are going on near Armenia's border rayons. Azerbaijani National Army [ANA] units have fired on and attacked our republic's border rayons. The Armenian Defense Ministry's press service has reported that tension escalated in the border areas in Araratskiy and Yekhegnadzorskiy Rayons last night. Armenian defense forces retaliated to end the relentless firing from positions in Sadarak Rayon in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. Clashes continued all night near Yeraskhavan. Azerbaijan's military units fired on Sevakavan and [placename indistinct]. Firing continues.

Azerbaijan does not seem to want to abandon its aggression against Armenia. Indeed, the enemy's provocations have increased significantly.

[Placename indistinct] in Vardenisskiy Rayon was fired on from Azerbaijan's Kel'badzharskiy Rayon with artillery and mortars at 1330 yesterday. The Armenian forces retaliated and destroyed the enemy's fire emplacements.

The provocative activities of Azerbaijan's leaders and nationalist circles against our people will not go unanswered. Increasing Azerbaijani casualties confirm this. [passage indistinct]

More on Lachin Attack

OW2903142393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Following an intensive artillery preparation throughout Monday morning, Azerbaijani armed formations launched an attack at the positions held by Karabakh self-defense forces in the north and south of Lachin humanitarian corridor.

A spokesperson for the Armenian defense ministry told Interfax that the Azerbaijani attack was supported by several dozen tanks and other armored vehicles, as well as helicopters. The Azerbaijani attack is gaining momentum, inflicting casualties on the defender.

Armenian sources suggest that the Azerbaijani armed formations seek to cut off the only line connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia.

The Armenian defense ministry also reports that the situation is worsening at Armenia's border with Azerbaijan's Nakhichevan's Region. Intensive combat operations are also reported in that region.

In the meantime, Interfax learned at the HQs of the self defense forces in Stepanakert that the Azerbaijani forces have succeeded capturing several areas north and south of the highway Stepanakert- Lachin-Goris, which serves to connect Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia. Both sides, reportedly, are suffering heavy losses.

In addition, fierce fighting continued in Nagorno-Karabakh's Mardakert Region and Azerbaijan's Kelbadzhar Region throughout March 8.

According to the HQs, the losses of the Azerbaijani side have amounted to 40 KIAs, Karabakh's self defense forces losing 7 of their soldiers.

Azerbaijani 'Terror' Group Holds Congress as Party

NC2903203793 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The law adopted by the Azerbaijani National Assembly on public and political organizations some weeks ago has given Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov the opportunity to change the status of the Gray Wolves terror organization, which he heads.

Baku radio reported that the organization, which considers itself the liberator of the Turkic world, held its first congress as a political party a few days ago. It discussed and adopted the party program and Gray Wolves' regulations; assessed the social, political, and military situation in the republic; and elected leading party officials. A renowned bandit chief, Zohrab Mamedov, who is also known as Kelbalak, has been elected a member of the party's administrative board.

The Gray Wolves armed detachment is deployed in the village of Alibeyli in Tauzskiy Rayon. After frequent failures in their raids on Armenian border settlements in the nearby Tavushskiy Rayon, Mamedov's armed gangs constantly terrorize residents of nearby Azerbaijani villages, looting daily and carrying out monstrous acts. Village residents have given Mamedov the name Kelbalak after a notorious bandit chief in the 1930's.

Shakir Mahesamov was elected party chairman, while Khamidov retains his role as godfather and spiritual leader of the party.

Rising Discontent Among Kurds in Azerbaijan Noted

NC2903182093 Yerevan SNARK in English 1554 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Yerevan, March 29 (SNARK)—Representatives of the Kurdish Liberation Movement inform of rising tide of discontent and protest meetings of the Kurd

population in Azerbaijan, in particular, in Yevlakh, Gyandzha towns and the Kurdish settlements in Azerbaijan. The reason for these discontent is the attempts of the Azerbaijani powers to call up the Kurdish youth to the Karabakh front, and also the continuing discrimination and assimilation of the Kurds in Azerbaijan. Moreover, according to Alikhane Mame, expert of the Armenian parliamentary commission of human rights and Kurdish activist, the Kurd circles are again raising up the question of foundation of the Kurd-Karabakh confederation in the territory of the former Red Kurdistan and current Nagorno-Karabakh. Citing Mame, that, in one hand, would rehabilitate the historical truth relating to Kurds and Armenians, and in other hand would allow to stop the Karabakh war.

Azerbaijan

Government Supports Russian Democrats, Yeltsin

OW2903143493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Baku supports Russia's democratic forces and President Yeltsin, stated Azerbaijani presidential spokesman, Arif Aliyev, at a briefing on Monday.

He believes the events in Russia could have a direct effect on the situation in Azerbaijan. Therefore, the Azerbaijani democracy cannot remain indifferent to the fate of democracy in Russia. Aliyev said that not just economic, but also political ties with Russia are important to Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan will continue to support the democratic process in Russia in the future, stressed the press secretary of President Abulfaz Elchibey.

Aliyev said that on Monday he signed the resignation statement of Azerbaijani State Secretary Panakh Guseynov. Aliyev said the state secretary's strained relations with Azerbaijani Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov motivated his resignation.

Russians Transfer Control of Border

OW2903142293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian border troops finally transferred control of sections of the Azerbaijani border to the republican committee for state border protection. Now Azerbaijani border guards are protecting Azerbaijan's foreign borders.

Colonel Vladimir Zaliznyak, an officer from the Russian border troops command, told Interfax that in the city of Prishib, where the Russian border troops headquarters is located, they finished dividing up and transferring property (50% of material property) to Azerbaijan. The Prishib Division of Russian border troops has been almost fully removed from the territory of Azerbaijan.

According to Zaliznyak, all measures connected with the division of property and the withdrawal of the troops, went without difficulties and in perfect accordance with established agreements.

The division will be restationed in Nalchik.

Only one division - connected with the operative-troop division of Russian border troops - remains on Azerbaijani territory, in Baku. Those troops will leave the republic immediately after the issue of transportation is resolved.

Interior Minister, Bodyguards Beat Journalist

NC2703175293 Baku TURAN in English 1359 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Baku, March 27 (TURAN)—Today at 1130 of local time the Minister of Internal Affairs Iskender Khamidov together with his five body-guards burst into the head-quarters of the Social-Democratic Party and organized a pogrom. After that Khamidov together with the body-guards beat the editor of "ISTIGLAL" [Independent] newspaper (the organ of Social-Democratic Party) Zardusht Alizade. After that Khamidov dragged out Alizade in the street and pushed him into the Mercedes luggage compartment and went away to the unknown direction.

According to the member of the Central Committee of the Social- Democratic Party Tamilia Zeynalova the reason of Gamidov's actions is publication in "ISTIGLAL" newspaper the materials criticizing Azerbaijan authority.

Last year Khamidov beat two journalists for their authority criticism.

State Secretary Guseynov Resigns

LD2903180593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1722 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By AZERTAC-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 29 March—Panakh Guseynov, secretary of state of the Azerbaijan Republic, sent in his resignation today. Arif Aliyev, head of the president's press service, said at a briefing that the resignation followed insulting remarks by Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov levelled at the republican leadership and opposition forces during a live television debate in which the secretary of state and leaders of Azerbaijan's National Independence Party took part.

P. Guseynov's resignation is also linked with his protest against the fact that Zardusht Alizade, editor of the ISTIGLAL [Independence] newspaper, member of the

bureau of the Central Committee of the Social Democratic Party, was beaten up by the head of the Interior Ministry.

In Arif Aliyev's view, "the interior minister's actions contradict not only legal norms but also the official policy of a state which has chosen a firm course toward democracy." The head of the press service, himself a professional journalist, expressed his support for the intention of journalists to defend their rights to the end. He also said that "whether he stays in his post or not will depend on how the president of the republic appraises the incident."

Meanwhile, the assembly of Azerbaijan's trade unions of independent journalists has adopted a decision to declare a general strike from tomorrow.

Resignation Not Yet Accepted

NC2903121493 Baku TURAN in English 0907 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Baku 29 March TURAN—State Secretary of Azerbaijan Panakh Guseynov sent today for his resignation. He justified it by hooligan actions of Minister of Internal Affairs Iskender Khamidov, who succeeded within last two days to beat editor of the newspaper "ISTIGLAL" Zardusht Alizade and to derange a TV relaying with participation of state secretary Panakh Guseynov.

As the TURAN agency was informed by the international source in the apparatus of the President of Azerbaijan, Abulfaz Elchibey did not yet accept the resignation of the state secretary. The same source informs that the leadership of the Republic considers the issue on release of Iskender Khamidov from duties of the minister of internal affairs. Press-service of the president is accepted to perform today with statement by this matter.

Press Secretary Threatens To Quit

NC2903181893 Baku TURAN in English 1412 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Baku (29 March) TURAN—"My tenure of office of press-secretary of the president will depend on reaction of the leadership of Azerbaijan on the actions of Iskender Khamidov," announced Chief of the Press-Service of the President Arif Aliyev today at briefing.

The TURAN agency informed that on March 26 Iskender Khamidov with his body-guards burst into office of the social-democratical party and beat brutally editor of the newspaper "ISTIGLAL" Zardusht Alizade. After that Alizade under the threat of weapon was crammed into the luggage of the official car of Khamidov and got to investigation insulter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. By words of Alizade he was again beaten in insulter. [as received]

Next day Khamidov by his hooligan actions deranged the direct translation by TV in which state secretary Panakh Guseynov took place.

By words of press-secretary of the president all these actions negatively influenced socio-political situation in Azerbaijan.

Earlier Iskender Khamidov beat journalists of two newspapers for publication of materials which contains critics to this address. The very that time the president of the republic promised that such actions will not take place any more.

Meeting of editors of republican bodies of the mass information must take place today. It is expected to accept joint statement in connection with the fact of assault of journalists by the minister of internal affairs.

Opposition Criticizes President's 'Silence'

NC2903182893 Baku TURAN in English 1413 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Baku (March 29) TURAN—Today the political council of the largest oppositional National Independence Party spread a statement in which the actions of the Minister of Internal Affairs with respect to the editor of "ISTIGLAL" newspaper are regarded as "a political terror".

According to the statement of the National Independence Party beating of the journalist and one of the leaders of social-democrats by Iskender Khamidov became possible because of "Such Khamidovs actions did not receive a proper presidents appraisal in its time". It is noted in the statement that "The president silence means that authority approved Khamidovs actions".

Journalists Union Protests

NC2903212293 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Azerbaijani Journalists Union has issued a statement on the ISTIGLAL incident on 26 March. It said: The lawless incident in the editorial section of the newspaper ISTIGLAL has caused anxiety among the republic's journalists. The involvement of the internal affairs minister in the action against the paper's chief editor is a shameful incident in a republic that is trying to establish a lawful state. The incident not only weakens the foundations of democracy, but defames Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani Journalists Union strongly protests the action taken by the leading Internal Affairs Ministry official and calls for serious measures to obstruct any similar activity.

Rally in Baku To Demand Government Resignation

OW3003111293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1041 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Supporters of the Azerbaijani National Independence Party intend to urge the government to resign at a rally in Baku on March 31. The leader of that opposition party Etibar Mamedov told newsmen in the Azerbaijani capital on Monday [29 March] that the new cabinet was unable to solve economic problems and end the war in Karabakh.

In his words, the party also advocates a plan to demand that the authorities set the date for new parliamentary elections, and that President Abulfaz Elchibey report about the political and economic situation in the country.

Mr. Mamedov warned that if the authorities tried to use force against those who gather for the meeting, a civil war might break out in Azerbaijan.

Defense Ministry Reports Continuing Armenian Attacks

OW2903130293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] For the second consecutive day, the attack by Armenian forces on the Kelbadzharsky region of Azerbaijan rages on, Interfax learned on Monday [29 March] at the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry.

According to their information, the attack is being waged from two directions, from Armenian territory and from Khankendi (Stepanakert, Nagorno Karabakh). The Armenian army is using heavy artillery and planes.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports that during the fighting over the past twenty four hours, the Armenian side lost one tank, two MIFVs and one Grad rocket launcher installation.

Attack in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2903170693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1602 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Gariy Gulistan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan March 29 TASS—Armed formations of Azerbaijan attempted an attack on the Nerkin-Oratag hill feature in Nagorno-Karabakh tonight. According to ARMENPRESS reports coming in from Stepanakert, self-defence forces of Nagorno-Karabakh thwarted the attack. Casualties have been reported from both sides.

According to the same source, this morning Azeri formations, supported by tanks and aircraft attempted an attack on Nagorno-Karabakh self-defence forces positions in the Lachin humanitarian corridor. Fighting is continuing, according to reports coming in from there.

Georgia

Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, Georgian Army Issue Statements

LD2903151093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 29 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi March 29 TASS—According to information received here from the press-service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, "shooting continued on the Gumista front today. The Georgians have shelled the Abkhazian positions and the laboratory of the Russian troops in the village of Nizhnie Eshery. Several Georgian gun emplacements had to be silenced. The enemy has suffered casualties. The second and fourth battalions of the Abkhazian Armed Forces have knocked out two enemy tanks. There was also shooting on several sectors of the Ochamchire front. The Georgians have regrouped their troops and hardware. Many refugees have been spotted on the road from Sukhumi to Ochamchire."

The press-centre of the Armed Forces of Georgia, deployed in Abkhazia, has asked ITAR-TASS to publish the following statement issued by the command of the Second Georgian Army Corps: "In spite of repeated warnings, served by the Second Georgian Army Corps, the Abkhazian side is continuing bombing raids on residential blocks in Sukhumi. At 3 hours 25 minutes on March 28, for instance, there was one more air raid on the peaceful population of Sukhumi, which has caused substantial damages and killed or wounded several people. The entire responsibility for these actions rests with the Gudauta leadership. The command of the Second Army Corps hereby admonishes that any further repetition of such acts of barbarity will call forth retaliatory blows without additional warning."

Fighting Continues; Labra 'in Georgian Hands'

AU3003104493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Here is information from Abkhazia we have just received over the phone from Sukhumi. Our correspondent spoke with Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Zviad Mirgatia, employee at the press center of the Main Staff of the Georgian Armed Forces in Sukhumi.

[Begin recording] [Mirgatia] At dawn, on 29 March, the enemy became visibly more active on the Gumista River and, at approximately 0600 [0200 GMT], began to move heavy equipment to the front line. However, they were thwarted by defensive artillery fire by Georgian Armed Forces. They were forced to withdraw their heavy equipment.

At approximately 1900, the enemy again became active and opened intensive fire from heavy equipment and rocket launchers on our positions and in the direction of Sukhumi. Several shells exploded in a new region of Sukhumi. The bombing of the city did not result in any

casualties. However, two Georgian fighters were wounded at their positions. As soon as the shooting began, Georgian Armed Forces opened retaliatory artillery fire and, following positional battles that lasted half an hour, they forced the enemy to halt its action.

At approximately 2100, a column comprising seven trucks and five light vehicles was observed near the laboratory at Eshera [Sukhumi rayon] that entered onto the territory of the laboratory. The command of the Georgian Armed Forces contacted the Russian military and asked them to explain this fact. The Russians stated that the column of vehicles had brought fuel and products for the military unit stationed there. The Russians did not respond to the question from the Georgian side regarding whether such a large amount of fuel and goods was necessary for several dozen people. The command of the Georgian Armed Forces warned the Russian side that, in the event of provocations from the laboratory, decisive measures would be taken and responsibility for any possible consequences would rest with the Russian military.

The night passed quietly along the whole front line at the Gumista River and there were no active combat actions.

This is the situation at present.

[Unidentified correspondent] Zviad, any news from Ochamchire?

[Mirgatia] Yesterday, Georgian combatants made a considerable advance in the village of Labra in Ochamchire rayon. At the moment, they are consolidating their positions.

[Correspondent] In whose hands is Labra?

[Mirgatia] In Georgian hands, practically in Georgian hands. Small [enemy] groups still remain there, but mopping-up operations are taking place.

[Correspondent] Thank you. All the best to you. [end recording]

Russians Protest Shelling of Laboratory

AU3003125893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] The IVERIA agency has reported that the operational group of Russian Federation Armed Forces in Gudauta has made the following statement:

Between 1850 [1550 GMT] and 0030 during the night of 27 and 28 March, the Georgian side fired from artillery at the 24th Russian Army laboratory located in Kvemo Eshera [Sukhumi rayon] on whose territory more than 20 shells and mortars exploded. The head of the communications department was wounded. As a result of retaliatory measures, firing in the direction of the Russian laboratory stopped.

On 28 March, at 0145, the firing points of Georgian Armed Forces were suppressed.

Artillery fire from the Georgian side in the direction of the laboratory continued in spite of a protest statement made by the command of the operational group of Russian Armed Forces in Gudauta. The Russian Federation Armed Forces state that, in the event of violent [word indistinct] and shooting, retaliatory measures will be taken.

Russian 'Reactionaries' Advise Abkhaz Leaders

AU2903203293 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 24 Mar 93 p 4

[IPRINDA information agency report under the rubric "According to Information From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "The Alliance of Reactionaries and Separatists"]

[Text] **According to information from the leadership of the Georgian Information and Intelligence Service, Abkhaz leaders have their lobby in Russia's reactionary circles. Aides of Baburin [coordinator of the "Russia Faction"] and Astafyev [leader of the hardline opposition bloc "Russian Unity"] frequently visit their Abkhaz friends and, according to I. Batiashvili, head of Georgia's intelligence service, pester them to the extreme with their advice. Russia's democratically disposed parliamentarians also bear witness to the contacts of Russian reactionaries with the Abkhaz leaders. It is their assertion that these forces are now gaining the upper hand and that it is impossible to reach an agreement with them at a civilized level.**

The headquarters "Zelenaya Roshcha" ["Green Grove"], which is located in Sochi under the cover of a humanitarian function, serves as a meeting place for Abkhaz, Cossacks, and [Caucasian Mountain Peoples'] Confederation members. According to information from Georgian intelligence, it is from here that the transfer of manpower and equipment into the conflict zone is coordinated. Weapons and ammunition are being delivered to the Abkhaz side through Adler [resort near Sochi].

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Demonstrate in Zugdidi

OW2903194193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A 800-strong meeting of the Georgian ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters was held in Zugdidi on March 29. Several orators, including the former member of the Georgian Supreme Soviet Mukhran Machavariani, declared that the present Georgian parliamentarians are "people's traitors who have supported the government which has come with arms."

Loti and Zaur Kobaliya, leaders of armed formations and supporters of the ex-president, reported to the demonstrators that their armed formations are not

involved in conflict in Abkhazia. They will not participate in hostilities until Shevardnadze and his government resign.

The former members of Georgia's Supreme Soviet Nugar Molodinashvili and Avtandil Rtskhiladzze assured participants of the meeting in their support and reported that they will see the ex-president in Georgia in the near future.

Procurator Suspends Criminal Case Against Gamsakhurdia

AU2903162093 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 24 Mar 93 p 4

[INPRINDA information agency report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "Case Suspended"]

[Text] **The investigation of the criminal case against ex-President of Georgia Zviad Gamsakhurdia has been suspended.** This information was announced by Georgia's Procurator General Tedo Ninidze. The reason for the suspension of the investigation was the lack of witnesses who, for known reasons, are living either in Groznyy or in other places outside the republic. According to the procurator general, his office is engaged in investigating terrorist acts committed after the elections of 11 October 1992.

Military Training for Abkhazian Reservists

LD2903175793 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1332 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] According to a report from KONTAKT news agency, there is a military training center in a populated area in Gudautskiy rayon, in Primorskoye to be precise, at which members of the reserve in the so-called Abkhazian army, including artillery troops, combat vehicle crews, and other military specialists receive training. There are reports that the members of the reserve are subjected to regular psychological conditioning, the main aim of which is to enable them to treat prisoners cruelly.

Most of the members of the reserve are young people of Abkhazian and Armenian nationality recruited in Russia. The Armenians were mobilized under threat of being shot. Therefore the statement by the Russian leadership on non-interference in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict is bewildering. The members of the reserve are under the command of Colonel Mikhail Kulishov, an officer in the Russian Armed Forces, while the special forces group take their orders from Captain Pechenkov, a Border Troops officer.

Estonia

Customs Department Halts 'Smuggling' by Russian Navy

WS2903114593 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1821 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Estonian Customs Department and Coast Guard stopped the Russian Navy hydrography service from smuggling out navigation equipment. 750 batteries of navigation lights and 20 tons of equipment were discovered aboard a naval hydrography vessel. Estonian seamarks and lighthouses have been a source of long-term controversy between the Estonian and Russian authorities. The Russian hydrographers have accused the Estonian government of refusing to pay for their services while they have been damaging and dismantling the navigation lights, thus presenting a threat to the marine traffic.

Russian Ship Takes Equipment

OW2903181993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1752 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian navy's hydrographic ship "Kompas" has taken away several sea buoys, 750 batteries for navigation lights, and 20 tons of other navigation equipment from Estonia Friday [26 March] night.

This cargo was seen Friday by the personnel of the Customs Department and coast guards on board the ship which was preparing to leave one of Tallinn's harbors.

By the Estonian-Russian accord of December 17, 1992, the hydronavigation equipment owned by the so-called Tallinn unit of the Baltic fleet hydrographic service was to be handed over to Estonia.

Top officials of the Estonian River and Sea Transportation Department suggested to the Russian servicemen that they put off the departure to at least Monday so as to clarify with the Russian military command the question of ownership of the equipment. But the crew rejected the suggestion and left the port without permission a few hours later.

By doing so, Interfax was told in the Border Guard Department, "Kompas" also broke the regulation that the Russian navy must inform the Estonian border guards on arrivals and departures of navy ships.

Vaido Kraav, head of the hydrographic service of the River and Sea Transportation Department, an Estonian coast guard boat tried to intercept "Kompas" but the latter was too fast for it.

Premier Says Country May Halt Talks With Russia

MK2603125093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Mar 93 p 3

[Ilya Nikiforov report: "Tallinn Hopes for Better Relations With Moscow, Although Without Particular Optimism"]

[Text] "We remember the support that Boris Yeltsin gave to the Baltic states in 1991," Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said, adding that now Russia is entitled to count on Estonia's moral support. "However, we cannot interfere in our neighbor's internal affairs, and all the problems have to be resolved by the Russian citizens themselves," he emphasized. At the same time the Estonian prime minister is afraid that political instability in Russia may affect talks between the two countries. "Unless there is some forward movement at the talks in the near future, we will have to consider the possibility of halting them," he stated.

Complex and painful relations between Russia and Estonia make both the republic's political leadership and the mass media closely monitor the political crisis in the huge neighboring country. On 23 March, the heads of the Baltic states issued a joint statement. In dry diplomatic language, it voiced concern over the future of democratic reform in Russia, and therefore, for European and Asian security. It also expressed the hope that the crisis would be overcome in a peaceful way and that the democratic forces would win. Earlier, Estonian Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste publicly voiced his hope that "democratic aspirations will nonetheless succeed" in Russia. He pins his hope on the supposition that "events in Russia will evolve in a calm fashion, at least at the initial stage." The minister judged it his duty to assure the Estonians that Tallinn for its part, of course, was doing its utmost so that should events in Russia slip out of control, Estonia will be ready.

There is a conviction fairly widespread among Estonian politicians that the republic's future largely depends on what is going on in Moscow. This conviction has a strong pessimistic tinge. A high-ranking Estonian politician said the other day in a private conversation with a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that President Lennart Meri holds a pessimistic view regarding future political developments in the eastern neighboring state and is nearly convinced that Stalinists will come to power in Moscow. This in many respects explains his propagandist attempts to present relations between Estonia and Russia to European public opinion as a relationship of two civilizations, two cultures—the West and the East.

The Estonian side does realize that under current circumstances it is unlikely to assist in any tangible way in "the victory of the democratic forces" in Russia. Particularly because it has already damaged them by its

previous hard-line policies with regard to its own foreign-born citizens. That is why the Estonian Government thinks more about its own country's security. Colonel Ants Laaneots, chief of the Main Staff of the Defense Forces, has stated that the government and the defense forces have a strategic plan of action if the internal situation in Russia worsens. Surveillance and reconnaissance to track the situation in Russian Army units that currently remain in Estonia have been organized. According to Defense Forces Main Staff officials, Kaitseliit members, and border guards, there is nothing special to be seen in places where Russian troops are stationed, and the situation is calm.

The far from completed withdrawal of the Russian troops is, perhaps, the key factor that the Estonian authorities have in mind while monitoring and assessing what is going on in the country. Minister Juri Luik, chief of the Estonian delegation at the talks with Russia, said that the negotiations' results would hinge on the outcome of the power struggle in Moscow. But the Russian Government must in any case fulfill its promise to pull its troops out of Estonia as soon as possible, he added. "Russia realizes, I hope, that one reason the Western countries have been providing insufficient assistance to it is Russia's policies with regard to the Baltics," Juri Luik said.

Defense Forces Ready for 'Unfavorable Events in Russia'

OW2703003493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2028 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Units of the Estonian voluntary para-military service Kaitseliit (Defense League) are prepared to act if the Russian events take a dangerous turn for Estonia.

A BALTFAX correspondent in Tallinn reports that the organization is capable of deploying 8,000 armed men within two hours. If the situation deteriorates, Kaitseliit fighters will be attached to border guards on the Russian-Estonian border.

The headquarters of the Estonian defense forces and the Border Guard Department officials also told BALTFAX they were prepared for action in the case of unfavorable events in Russia.

Even though it is a voluntary organization. Kaitseliit is integrated into the Estonian defenses.

Defense League To Guard Russian Ammunition Depots

WS2903113393 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1745 GMT 26 Mar 93

[From 26 March, RAHVA HAAL p 1]

[Text] March 26, 1993—The Russian ammunition depot at Astangu near the Oismae district holds almost 7,000 tons of munitions, a half of it old torpedoes of WWII period, according to some experts. The guarding of the depot was clearly inadequate as even youngsters were seen carrying away shells and cartridges. According to an agreement between the Estonian and Russian authorities, the depot is to be guarded by the Defence League [DL] and the Russian marines. However, both Estonian and Russian military have expressed their apprehension at the joint patrolling. "It may cause unfavourable incidents," Chief of the QHQ Colonel Ants Laaneots was described as saying. But the head of the Russian Navy base in Tallinn Admiral Yuriy Belov had no authorization to turn the guarding over to the Estonian armed forces entirely. The Defence League has received government financing for the guarding, Chief of the DL Captain Johanes Kert told the RAHVA HAAL.

Defense Forces To Begin Regular Patrols of Tallinn

WS2903104193 Tallinn BNS in English 1612 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Tallinn, March 27, BNS—From March 26 on, regular patrolling service of the Defence Forces started in Tallinn.

The patrolmen wear white helmets with blue letters SP. The patrols will be checking the following of the Estonian Defence Forces regulations, and the moving of the Russian soldiers. If necessary, the patrol will co-operate with the police.

Major Manivald Kasepold, former Estonian Kaitseliit militia commander was appointed commandant of Tallinn.

On March 25, the calling up of new recruits started.

The first 224 recruits were directed to the border defence forces. This is, however, only 60 percent of the actual need of the Border Defence Department.

Democratic Labor Party Supports Russian Reformist Forces

WS2903104493 Tallinn BNS in English 1612 GMT 27 Mar 93

[Text] Tallinn, March 27, BNS—The Estonian Democratic Labour Party (former Estonian Communist Party) fully supports the reformist forces of Russia.

Since 1988, as democratic processes were initiated in Russia, we have been feeling the support of Russia's democratic forces, chairman of the Democratic Labour Party Vaino Valjas told BNS.

Valjas said that the party follows the processes taking place in Russia "with concern and a sense of danger".

He expressed regret that Estonia has, due to the activity of the current political leadership of Estonia, lost a major level for influencing the relations of Estonia and Russia.

President Clinton Thanks Meri for Congratulations

WS2903113193 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1745 GMT 26 Mar 93

[From 26 March, RAHVA HAAL p 1]

[Text] March 26, 1993—President Lennart Meri has received an official telegram from the US President Bill Clinton, thanking for congratulations on appointment. "I estimate your friendship and supporting Estonia's independence and sovereignty. I very much hope that we will be able to strengthen mutual political and economic relations in close co-operation," the telegram reads.

"I expect joint work on solving numerous problems facing us. I am convinced that we will be able to develop peace between the people of the world with joint effort and prosperity in the countries," the telegram reads.

Latvia

Foreign Minister Andreyev Receives U.S. Ambassador

WS2903121393 Riga LETA in English 1137 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Riga, March 29 (LETA)—Georg Andreyev, the Latvian Foreign Minister, met with the USA Ambassador to Latvia, Ints Silins, before leaving for the United States where he was due to meet with the State Secretary Warren Christopher. Issues related to the anticipated meeting, which is schedules to take place on April 8, were discussed during the talks.

According to the press service of the Latvian Foreign Ministry, Ints Silins suggested that the Latvian government should focus on domestic problems, informing the international community of the real situation of economy and home policy in Latvia.

Defense Minister Leaves for Brussels NATO Meeting

LD2903094193 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Talavs Jundzis, the minister of defense of Latvia, is taking part in an annual meeting of defense ministers of the NATO and Cooperation Council member states in Brussels today. One of the main issues, which will be discussed at the meeting, is a plan of setting up security forces in the framework of the NATO Cooperation Council.

As Talavs Jundzis said prior to leaving for Brussels, general military cooperation should be in the basis of setting up such security forces. They should operate as a real military force only in the event of crisis.

If Jundzis is given the opportunity to speak at the meeting, he will inform participants in it about problems related to the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia and assistance needed in setting up the defense system.

A meeting between the defense ministers of the Baltic states and the Benelux states is also envisaged during the meeting.

Russian Army Missile Unit Leaves 'Poisonous' Fuel

LD2603183993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] At the beginning of this week the last military personnel of the Russian Army left the Banga missile unit camp situated in Ventspils rayon. Tanks containing missile fuel, which is poisonous, were left at the military camp. The rayon authorities refused to take over the site as their property until this fuel is taken away. As Karklina, the chief ecologist for Ventspils rayon reported, 90 tonnes of (?millazh) fuel and 180 tonnes of (?Samin) fuel, which are particularly harmful to human life and the environment, were present at the military unit last November.

Russian Army Missile Structures Listed for Destruction

LD2603192293 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 25 Mar 93

[Text] During the next week a bureau for the control over the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia will present a list of objects no longer needed by Latvia, and which are to be destroyed, to the Command of the North Western Group of Forces of the Russian Federation. Various underground structures, silos and other antiaircraft and strategic missile unit structures, useless in civilian conditions, are already included in the list. After these structures are dismantled and disassembled the territory will be put in good order by the Russian side and passed to the Latvian authorities.

Government Panel To Monitor Russian Developments

PM2803090393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 93 p 3

[Correspondent K. Markaryan report: "Grandchildren of Latvian Riflemen Are Always Prepared"]

[Text] The events which are taking place in Russia are eliciting a singular reaction from the Latvian Government. A special operations group has been set up on the initiative of the leaders of the republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of State J. Dinevics (head of the Latvian delegation at the Russian-Latvian negotiations), and a representative of the Defense Ministry's Foreign Affairs and Information Directorate. Its purpose is to gather and summarize information on events in Russia.

Specialists from the Foreign ministry's East-West affairs and information and press departments, as well as their technical services, are on the operational group's staff. The group is to work in close contact with the appropriate structures of the Latvian Ministries of Internal Affairs and Defense. According to information from the Foreign Ministry's press center, important tasks are in this connection being entrusted to Latvian embassies outside of the republic; this particularly affects the Latvian Embassy in Moscow.

Russia Seeks Liepaja Shipyard Joint Venture

WS2903104793 Tallinn BNS in English 1909 GMT 26 Mar 93

[Text] Riga, Mar 26, BNS—The Russian military is determined to return shipyards in the seaport city of Liepaja, Latvia, but only if Latvia forms a joint-venture enterprise with them, Ilgonis Upmalis, chief of the bureau for monitoring the Russian troops withdrawal, told BNS Friday [26 March].

Latvia agreed to consider the proposal only after the shipyards are given over to the Latvian jurisdiction. A document on the issue is being prepared for the next round of interstate talks April 26 in Riga.

The shipyards were confiscated by Russia in 1940. Latvia contends they ought to be returned unconditionally, like the rest of the industrial property taken by Russia.

Upmalis said that Russia has no room for real estate claims because 90 percent of the shipyards' facilities were built by 1940.

People's Front Appeals for NATO or UN Deployment

LD2903195293 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The board of the People's Front of Latvia this evening adopted an appeal to the government of the Republic of Latvia to apply without delay to NATO and possibly also to the United Nations with a demand for deploying in Latvia a contingent of security forces which would guarantee the national security of Latvia against probable threats which have arisen in the course of the events of recent days in Russia.

The board of the People's Front of Latvia regards NATO—and probably also the United Nations—as the only military force in Europe capable of stopping possible aggression from any side. These threats, as members of the board of the People's Front of Latvia believe, have arisen from the communist forces fighting Russian President Boris Yeltsin in a bid to regain power.

In the event of revenge by communists in Russia, the first problem will not be the diplomatic or economic survival of Latvia, but, indeed, its survival as a state, the appeal says.

Lithuania

Foreign Minister Concerned Over Grachev Statement

OW2903191793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1847 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "News received from Brussels raises our concern," in such a way the Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys commented on the statement of the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. The Defense Minister's statement, in his interview with our Baltfax correspondent on Monday [29 March] evening, concerned Russia's intention to suspend the withdrawal of its forces from the Baltic states .

The leader of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry noted that he understands the difficulties experienced by the Russian side related to accommodation and social guarantees for the forces withdrawn from the Baltic states. However, he said, such a statement arouses concern and is a new sign, as until now Russia has not openly stated that it intends suspending the withdrawal of the Russian Army from the Baltic states.

Gylys added that he is awaiting explanations from the Russian plenipotentiary Ambassador to Lithuania Nikolay Obertyshev with whom the Lithuanian Foreign Minister intends to meet on Tuesday morning.

Ministry Voices 'Concern'

OW3003114693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1043 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [29 March] evening the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry issued a statement voicing concern with the change of Russia's official stand. The document was prompted by a speech of the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in Brussels where he announced the suspension of the withdrawal of troops from Baltic states.

The statement says that Russia is violating the schedule of withdrawal from Lithuania signed by the two defense ministers on September 8, 1992 as well as the Helsinki political declaration and the December 18, 1992 statement of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council saying that the pullout cannot be linked with other matters.

The announcement in Brussels aroused a sharp reaction in Lithuania. The speaker of parliament has told MPs [members of parliament] that on Monday evening President Brazauskas held a special meeting on the issue which suggested waiting for the return from Brussels of Defense Minister Butkevicius and making a decision after hearing his point.

On Tuesday morning the Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys invited the Russian ambassador to Vilnius Nikolay Obertyshev and demanded explanations concerning the official Russian stand.

Russian Ambassador Summoned

LD3003123893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1037 GMT 30 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 30 Mar— Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys has demanded that Nikolay Obertyshev, Russia's ambassador to Lithuania, inform him immediately on the official position of the Russian government with regard to the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from well-informed sources in the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry that today the head of the foreign policy department invited him to his office and asked for explanations in connection with the speech made by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev yesterday in Brussels at a meeting of defense ministers of the member-states of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, of Eastern Europe and of the former USSR republics.

As is known, the head of Russia's military department said in Brussels that Russia is suspending the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states, which caused a negative reaction in the capitals of the Baltic states.

"The Lithuanian foreign minister reminded the Russian ambassador that such a unilateral decision by Moscow violates the Lithuanian-Russian agreement of 8 September 1992 on the final withdrawal of troops from Lithuania by 31 August 1993 and that this operation can in no way be linked to other issues." He requested the official position of the Russian governemnt on this issue.

Politician Comments on Guidelines for Russia Talks

OW2903131693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1125 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] When the withdrawal of Russian troops is concluded this coming August, the talks between Lithuania and Russia will evidently center on a compensation for the damage inflicted on Lithuania during the years of occupation. This view was voiced Monday [29 March] morning on Lithuanian radio by Romualdas Ozolas, prominent politician, parliament member and former deputy premier in the government of Kazimieras Prunskiene, who was a member of a governmental delegation for talks with the USSR.

He has not been included in the new governmental delegation for talks with Russia, he said. Ozolas expressed concern over the possibility that "the main guidelines for the talks might be changed."

Vilnius Meeting Supports Russian Democratic Forces

OW2803161393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1551 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Hundreds of people gathered on Sunday [28 March] in Cathedral Square in the heart of Vilnius with banners and posters, proclaiming support for President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and for his policy of reforms. The action was organized by the local branch of Sajudis. Participants in it marched to the building of the Russian embassy to express their protest against the attempts to "reinstate the imperial forces in power".

Seimas Says Yeltsin Will Overcome 'Difficulties'

LD2603193293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 26 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 26 Mar—The mass media in Lithuania today published the official text of a statement of the republic's Seimas on the situation in Russia. It says that "The parliament of the Lithuanian Republic is deeply concerned over the situation that has emerged in the Russian Federation. Being aware of the difficulties of changing a totalitarian state system, we express our conviction that president Boris Yeltsin, the first president elected by the will of the people of Russia, will overcome the difficulties and that the initiated democratic reform will be successfully continued. We hope that Russia's internal problems will be tackled peacefully, and that the people will have an opportunity to express their will freely. We also hope that democracy will triumph in Russia, and that it will develop good relations and cooperation with all its neighbors."

LDP Chairman Comments on Yeltsin's 'Mistakes'

LD2803170893 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Statement by Gediminas Kirkilas, acting chairman of the Lithuanian Labour Democratic Party, LDP, and member of the Lithuanian Seimas; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I think that one of the main mistakes of President Yeltsin, a mistake which has also been repeated, I believe, by Vytautas Landsbergis—and this is not my personal point of view, I am trying to view it from the point of view of political science and not as his opponent—is that he, like many leaders in the post-Communist countries, is somehow trying to lean for support on the entire people and not on a certain party. In other words, these leaders have been brought forward

by a revolution, as was Yeltsin, and they are trying to remain presidents of the entire people. [passage omitted]

I think that President Yeltsin, like other leaders [words indistinct] for some reason or other did not found parties, normal parties that would... [pauses] they are leaning for support in the opinion of the entire people. And this is wrong; even the Constitution is written in that way. [passage omitted]

Then there is another matter, which we perhaps do not see. That is perhaps Yeltsin's opponents both in the parliament and at the congress cannot speak openly. I think there are certain personal reasons for this. [passage omitted]

It seemed to me that the compromise that had been reached and the early election are what some other political forces opposed to Yeltsin want. This seemed to be a normal achievement; however, there are probably some deeper reasons, like I have mentioned. [passage indistinct] I think that the exacerbation of the political situation is taking place because Russia, and especially the Russian politicians, is in a complex situation before cardinal reforms. Because now the decision must be taken on what to do next: whether to continue aggravating the situation taking less popular decisions or perhaps to take a certain step backward. [passage omitted]

In general, I doubt whether the issues of privatization and land should be decided by a referendum, because the president has already been elected, and he has been elected with a program of privatization and reforms, including the privatization of land. People have already voted for this. Why should people have to take a vote on this again? [passage omitted]

Only of late, say during the last six months, could a certain concrete policy toward Lithuania be seen. If we speak about the attitude of Russia toward all the Baltic states, then one notices that this policy is differential, because the troops are being withdrawn from Lithuania and not from the others. You probably remember a statement made recently that Russia stop trade and economic relations with latvia and Estonia because of the human rights violations. This is already a policy. [passage omitted] However, I do not think that this policy has been implemented because the internal political situation in Russia would not allow for this. Perhaps Kozyrev thinks as he acts at the moment, but, as we can see, his foreign policy does not always find support in parliament or in the supreme council. On the contrary, I think he is one of the most criticised persons by the congress. [passage omitted]

If the there is a change of leadership in Russia, well, this is what the West is afraid of. Let us remember how the West was afraid of the disintegration of the USSR in Gorbachev's time. Now the West is afraid, and not without good reason, of the disintegration of Russia, and that fear is probably even greater, because this disintegration will not mean simply some areas on the fringes falling away. [passage omitted]

Let us be frank. Yeltsin's actions were rather uncertain and not well backed. He just appeared and made a statement, and now it is not clear if this decree ever existed or not, whether the Constitutional Court had the...[changes thought] this is not appropriate for a politician. Once you take a step, it must be backed by all the seals and documents, and you have to proceed to the very end. Now he has already stopped, and it is no good once he stops. He may already be the loser. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Opposes Neutrality, Supports NATO

OW2903131393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1125 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's Home Defense Minister, Audrius Butkevicius, links the prospects for ensuring security for his country with NATO structures. He says he is against Lithuania's neutrality.

In an interview with the Lietuvos Aidas newspaper, the minister called for joining the zone of West European security and the relevant structures.

Neutrality cannot guarantee security for Lithuania; the country cannot ensure its security on its own, the home defense minister said. Therefore Lithuania should build its defense structures so as to enable them to join the mechanism for maintaining security in Europe quickly and easily, he said.

Nevertheless, according to Butkevicius, the system of home defense should be able to function autonomously, if that mechanism fails.